

### 3 Swedes arrested by Iraqis at border zone

KUWAIT (AP) — Three Swedish engineers based in Kuwait have been arrested by Iraqi security men after they apparently strayed into Iraqi territory while working on a project in northern Kuwait, a Swedish embassy spokesman said Saturday. "The ambassador has confirmation that they were picked up by Iraqis," Tommy Karlsson, the embassy's spokesman, said when asked about the whereabouts of the men who have been missing for three days. The three electrical engineers are employed by the Swedish Ericsson telecommunications firm. Search for them had been underway since Thursday, when they failed to return to their homes in Kuwait City from northern Kuwait. "We think they took the wrong road," Mr. Karlsson said. The men were installing a radio station for cellular telephones at Sabirah, about 30 kilometers from the poorly marked border. A spokesman at the foreign office in Stockholm said Sweden will send two diplomats to Baghdad to collect information on the men. A number of Kuwaitis and foreigners working in the emirate have been arrested by Iraqis in the border area.

# Jordan Times

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### Iraqis spend third day at Jordan border

AMMAN (R) — A 172-member Iraqi sports delegation cooled its heels in searing desert heat at the Syrian-Jordanian border for a third day Saturday after being barred from the Pan-Arab Games in Damascus. "We are still waiting at the border to see what will happen," Ali Turki, the delegation head, said in a telephone interview from Ramtha, Jordan's frontier post with Syria where the thermometer registered 40 C (104 F). "We have not yet received any signals from Syria that we will be allowed in," he said, adding that the athletes and support staff were sleeping in buses or cars and eating food brought with them. Syria barred the Iraqis from entering on Thursday, saying Baghdad never said it was sending a team to Syria, which is hosting the 7th Pan-Arab Games. The Arab League, the main umbrella organization for the games which opened in Damascus Friday, has been mediating in the dispute between Syria and Iraq, which have had major ideological differences since the late 1970s.

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### Kuwait offers pardon for arms possession

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis can still surrender arms hoarded since the Iraqi invasion without being penalised, the head of Kuwait's illegal weapons force said in a report published Saturday. Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Hamid Al Awadi told the pro-government newspaper Al Watan that his force was ready to accept weapons surrendered by citizens "without taking any legal measures against them." But he warned that the authorities, with approval of the attorney general, may now raid homes where they suspect weapons are hidden and can carry out spot checks on citizens. The government is trying to crack down on unlicensed weapons and explosives after a wave of violent attacks this year. The government's last amnesty programme for surrendering such weapons expired in June of last year but the authorities have continued to use a carrot-and-stick approach.

### Turkey says 20 Kurdish rebels killed

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops, using aircraft, killed about 20 Kurdish guerrillas in fierce battles on Mount Agri (Ararat), the governor of Agri province said Saturday. "We believe out of group of 40 terrorists, 20 have been killed. Terrorists who survived the clashes took the bodies of their friends with them," Governor Ismet Metin was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia agency. Mr. Metin said Turkish forces used planes, helicopters, artillery and mortar to capture Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) fighters believed to have infiltrated from Iran.

### Britain renews Lockerbie demand

LONDON (R) — Britain said Saturday that Libya must comply fully with United Nations demands to hand over two suspects in the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland. The statement from Britain's Foreign Office came after the Libyan leader told reporters in Tripoli he had already done all that the U.N. required of him and did not believe he was obliged under its resolutions to hand over the two suspects to face trial in Britain or the United States. Britain insisted that U.N. resolutions on the bombing plainly called for Libya to surrender the men, the statement said.

### Iran opening embassy in Uzbek capital

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saturday it would open an embassy in the Uzbek capital Tashkent on Sept. 8 as part of a diplomatic drive to expand relations with the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. The move was announced by Mahmoud Vaezi, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, who left on a week-long visit to the Commonwealth of Independent States. "The opening of the Iranian embassy in Tashkent will further boost the Islamic Republic's ties with Uzbekistan," Mr. Vaezi told the national Iranian news agency IRNA. "The Iranian official stressed the need on cooperation among Caspian Sea coastal states, which include the Islamic Republics of Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan," IRNA said.

### Pakistan departs 300 Afghan Sikhs

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan has deported 300 Afghan Sikhs who had fled last month's fighting in Kabul between government forces and dissident Mujahideen, police said Saturday. The Sikhs were sent back to Afghanistan in lorries last Thursday because they had no travel documents, police said. They had entered Pakistan before it sealed its border late last month to discourage the arrival of new Afghan refugees. The Sikhs wanted to go to India to stay with relatives but had no passports, a police official said. They preferred to be deported so they could return with travel documents, the official said. Tens of thousands of Afghans, including Sikhs and Hindus, have fled the fighting into Pakistan. There was no word on whether Pakistan planned to deport other Afghans who lack travel documents.

## Iraq fears Iranians may provoke clash with allies

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ HAS WARNED the U.N. Security Council that Iranian "saboteurs" may fire on Western aircraft patrolling the south to provoke a major confrontation, sources according to U.N. The Iranian attack would be designed to provoke the British, French and Americans into firing on Iraqi targets, the sources said. The sources — from a Western and an Arab country — told the AP Iraq's charge d'affaires, Samir Al Nimra, delivered the warning earlier this week to the president of the Security Council. Mr. Nimra declined to confirm or deny the report. The Iraqis have been saying publicly for more than a week that Iran wants to set up an autonomous Shiite Muslim area in southern Iraq. Tehran has long supported and armed Iraqi Shiite opposition groups are headquartered in Iran. The United States, Britain and France set up a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq last week to protect the Shiites, who they claim have been targeted by Iraqi forces. The allies warned Iraq that if its military planes flew in the area, they would be shot down. Now, the Iraqis worry that Iran

will provoke an attack against them. "There is a possibility that saboteurs might fire on the British, French and American aircraft with the aim of provoking an incident which could be used as a pretext to justify the aggression against Iraq," an Arab source said, summarising Iraq's position. The United States has apparently been concerned about just such an Iranian move. A U.S. source said last week the United States had sent Iranian diplomats a letter warning them not to take advantage of the "no-fly zone." Iran and Iraq fought a 1980-88 war that claimed more than one million lives, according to some estimates. This week, Mr. Nimra said, Iraq gave the United Nations evidence that Iran was sending infiltrators into southern Iraq. He said his government had turned over identification cards taken from infiltrators showing they were Iraqi prisoners of war being used by Iran or were Iranians. The diplomat said Iraq also had given the United Nations two videotapes of confessions by infiltrators. U.S. navy pilots continued to fly over southern Iraq Saturday. "All's quiet on the southern front," reported a pilot based

aboard the carrier USS Independence. An Iraqi Shiite opposition group claimed government troops were shelling the southern marshlands killed eight people and wounded 28 in the past week, it said. The Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement that 22 people were killed or wounded in shelling near Amara on Wednesday and Thursday. Western pilots flying over southern Iraq have not reported any signs of new Iraqi military activity against the dissidents. Turkish President Turgut Ozal has come under fire from dissident politicians for meeting with Iraqi opposition leaders in what was described as a plot to divide Iraq. During the meeting, the representatives of the Iraqi opposition groups — Kurdish, Turkmen, Shiite and Sunni — reportedly proposed that Western countries should also include parts of Iraq north of the 34th Parallel under their protection. Saddam's strategy is to shun clash with allies, page 2

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## Saudi-Iraqi conflict snags NAM statement

JAKARTA (R) — Iran and Saudi Arabia have clashed again at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit over whether to condemn the U.S.-led "no-fly zone," delaying agreement on the final declaration. While their leaders paid a sentimental journey to the city of Bandung where the movement's lofty ideals were born in 1955, lower-level officials were grappling with a contemporary dispute. "We have completed the documents except for the Iraqi issue. We hope it will not distract the closing ceremony tomorrow," senior Indonesian official Wiryono Sastrohandoyo told Reuters. The committee that was to produce the joint statement on political issues met till 4 a.m. on Saturday, Mr. Wiryono said it was to resume later in the day to seek a compromise on Iraq before the summit's closing session Sunday. Saudi Arabia leads a group of Middle Eastern countries strongly opposing any summit reference to the "no-fly zone" enforced by the United States, Britain and France over southern Iraq with the declared aim of protecting Shiite rebels from Baghdad.

Iraq says the move, along with a similar zone in the Kurdish north, is a plot to dismember the country. Saudi Arabia also opposes Iraq's plea to include in the declaration a call for food and medical supplies to be excluded from the United Nations blockade imposed after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Food and medicine are excluded from sanctions but Iraq says it cannot afford to buy shipments because it is barred from selling oil freely. "The Saudis do not want even a simple mention of the zone," one delegate said. But the other contentious issue at the summit — Serbian attacks on Muslims in the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Bosnia — appeared finally to have been settled. The political committee was expected to reach agreement on a statement denouncing the violence in Bosnia, without going into the demand by Islamic countries that founder member Yugoslavia be expelled from the movement. "We will gloss over Yugoslavia's status," a conference official said.

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## Rabat reports 99.96% 'yes' in referendum

RABAT (R) — Almost all of Morocco's 11.48 million voters said "yes" to a new constitution drawn up by King Hassan, Interior Minister Driss Bazzi said Saturday. The final official count gave a resounding 99.96 per cent of votes in favour of the new constitution, with 97.29 per cent of the electorate casting ballots. The results were disputed by opposition parties which had called for a boycott and said "no" votes were not registered. Mohammed Al Yazghri, leader of the opposition Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP), told Reuters: "The results of the referendum do not surprise us. Figures of over 99 per cent are familiar in non-democratic countries." Some voters said they cast negative ballots in Rabat despite government claims that all votes in the capital were in favour. Mr. Bazzi, at a news conference, called the outcome a clear sign of support for King Hassan. "By answering rapidly, massively and positively to the draft, the parties of the outgoing majority expressed their unequivocal

support of the new constitution, thus renewing their confidence and loyalty to Hassanian democracy," he said. King Hassan, the country's ruler for 31 years, says he personally drafted the new constitution which gives some of his extensive authority to the parliament and government. But opposition parties were sceptical about the conduct of the vote, also staged in the disputed Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony claimed by Morocco where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting for independence since 1976. "Nothing has changed in 30 years in the way of doing things (in Morocco)," Mr. Yazghri said. "Referendum results are practically always the same." Officials said only 4,844 or 0.04 per cent voted "no," but Mr. Yazghri said this was impossible. "Who is going to believe so few people were on holiday or were sick and unable to vote?" Several independence voters told Reuters they had voted "no" in Rabat and showed "correspondents the white 'yes' slips they had kept after tasting their ballots, with the blue 'no' slip.

## First U.N. troops due in Somalia on Sept. 12

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — After months of talks to get the warring factions to agree, the first U.N. troops to guard food deliveries are scheduled to arrive in Somalia next week, officials say. The troops are badly needed to help prevent looting by armed gangs of the thousands of tonnes of relief aid being flown in to help more than a million starving Somalis. "The security problems and the problems of theft are really shocking," Jan Eliasson, U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said in announcing the troops would begin arriving Sept. 12. Relief officials estimate about half of the aid is stolen after arrival. A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the troops would be provided by Pakistan, be flown in by the U.S. military and would arrive in small groups. The full contingent of 500 Pakistani soldiers is to be in place by Sept. 25 and will guard shipments only around Mogadishu, the capital, the source said. The United Nations first began trying to arrange the troops in March. Mohammad Sahnoun, the U.N. special envoy to Somalia, negotiated with the warring parties to get their agreement to

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Crown Prince Hassan

## Regent hopes peace talks will resume with new momentum

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has expressed hope that the Middle East peace process would pick up new momentum and stressed that the negotiators would tackle substance rather than form. "The structural framework of the negotiations was based on the international legitimacy and on United Nations resolutions on a search for peace that would be equitable to all parties concerned, with human terms, territorial terms, security terms and

comprehensive in that sense," the Regent told Mexico Television in an interview. "Today it appears that the structural nature of the talks based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 is again a question of debate between parties and, whatever the interpretation of international legitimacy, we hope that we keep these cornerstones in mind and very much on the working agenda," he said. "So I think that they see a certain pause for the time being, whether affected by the dynamic of the

talks or affected by experience the dynamic of the changes on the ground in the region or affected by experience elements such as the American elections. We hope that this pause will mean a substantial resumption of the talks on substance, not on form, and, effectively that the peace process, which started 10 months ago, will resume in the spirit of the letter in which it was intended." In reply to a question about Jordanian-Saudi relations following recent contacts between His

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## Peres says current talks do not cover permanent settlement

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday that the current round of peace talks with Palestinians should focus only on an interim autonomy settlement and not on the final status of the occupied territories. "Today we are talking about something temporary, not about the permanent settlements," Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio. Mr. Peres said the Israeli peace negotiations team was not prepared to present maps or discuss borders in the context of the autonomy plan because that could affect negotiations over the final status of the land. "To draw up a map as part of the autonomy talks — that belongs to negotiations on the permanent status, not the interim settlement," Mr. Peres said. But Mr. Peres emphasised that occupied Jerusalem would remain outside of any autonomy plans. "We have presented a list of about 15 areas in which Palesti-

nians can take responsibility immediately for managing affairs," he said. In regard to the negotiations with Syria, the foreign minister said Israel would explore the possibility of an interim settlement in those talks as well. Tamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli team negotiating with Syria, said Saturday that the two sides had not discussed Israeli withdrawal — full or partial — from the Golan Heights. "We are not in that situation or at that hour" of the negotiations, Mr. Rabinovich said on army radio. Mr. Rabinovich said he thought the mere fact of direct and acknowledged talks with Syria represented a breakthrough when seen against the background of past Israeli-Syrian relations. Has peace process become irreversible? page 2

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## Kabul fears truce may collapse

KABUL (Agencies) — Truce violations by a dissident Afghan leader may soon rupture a ceasefire agreed last week to end bloody fighting in Kabul, the Afghan Defence Ministry said Saturday. Defence Ministry spokesman Yunus Qanuni accused the Hezb-e-Islami party led by fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of taking advantage of the eight-day-old ceasefire to resupply his men for a new round of fighting. "Fourteen years of war have proven that Hezb-e-Islami cannot be trusted to keep its word," he said. "The government has made a commitment, but we have no sign of implementation from Hezb-e-Islami." Meanwhile, the economically strapped government set up a commission to help survivors of a flash flood that swept away entire villages, killing at least 800 people in northeastern Afghanistan. But the government, struggling after four months to consolidate power, is virtually broke. International aid has all but dried up because of the factional fighting within the shaky leadership. Government officials gave no details about the commission but said an announcement would come soon. A churning 10-metre wall of water, mud and rocks roared early Wednesday through the Salang, Ghorband and Shaltuh districts of the Panjshir Valley, a 200-kilometre swath of towering ranges of the Hindu Kush Mountains and some of Afghanistan's most fertile farmland. The raging water washed away crowded buses and hundreds of adobe homes, including scores that had just been rebuilt by refugees returning home following the end of the civil war. The Defence Ministry said at least 800 people drowned in the flash flood, most of them sleeping and trapped in their homes. "These problems show that the ceasefire may not last very long," a Hezb-e-Islami spokesman in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar retorted by charging the four-month-old government with failing to honour the terms of last Saturday's truce.

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## Shbeilat formally charged with transport, possession of weapons

By Sama Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The prosecutor of the state security court Saturday charged Islamist Deputy Laith Shbeilat with transport and possession of explosives to which the deputy pleaded not guilty, according to his lawyer Ibrahim Bakr. Mr. Bakr told the Jordan Times after he attended the session at the State Security Court at Marka that Mr. Shbeilat refused to make a statement to the prosecutor-general and quoted the deputy as saying that he would make his statements in a court hearing. No trial date was set. The lawyer explained that it was normal procedure to make the charge before the accused makes a statement. Mr. Bakr, who heads a battery of defence lawyers for Mr. Shbeilat, was the only one permitted to see the deputy. The team includes three practising lawyers who are also members of the Lower House:

Faris Nabulsi, Mohammad Faris Tarawneh and Abdul Karim Dughani. Mr. Shbeilat was detained last week after a suspect held in connection with another case claimed that the deputy's car was used to transfer arms and explosives. Mr. Bakr stressed that the charge made against Mr. Shbeilat did not name any illegal organisation. Earlier Saturday, Mr. Shbeilat's attorneys said the state security prosecutor-general had promised a private meeting between Mr. Shbeilat and Mr. Bakr before the interrogation began. "This was not implemented," Mr. Bakr said after meeting with his client in the presence of the prosecutor-general. The deputies represented in the defence team had also hoped to see Mr. Shbeilat, but they were not permitted to do so, according to his lawyers. The growing concern among Mr. Shbeilat's colleagues in Parliament was evident in a four-and-a-half-hour meeting Saturday morning in which they discus-

sed the detention of the deputy as well as that of another House member, Sheikh Yacoub Qarrash. The meeting, presided over by House speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, included members of the Public Freedoms Committee, representatives from all parliamentary blocs and independents as well as Mr. Bakr. Sheikh Qarrash was arrested several days before Mr. Shbeilat was detained. He is being held pending investigation into an illegal militant group called "Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami" (van-guard of Islamic youth), which is allegedly being funded from a "foreign country," according to security sources. Saturday's meeting of deputies decided to intensify contacts between the legislative and judicial branch concerning the case of the two detained deputies to "ensure that our colleagues enjoy their full legal rights," according to a statement issued by Dr. Arabiyat following the meeting.

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## More arrests of fundamentalist armed groups reported; but detentions are not seen as crackdown against Islamists

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While senior officials do not see or consider the arrest of Islamist deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash as a crackdown against Islamists, the government is nevertheless taking the threat posed by armed fundamentalist groups and individuals very seriously, according to informed and official sources. "It is in this light that the security forces have lately arrested, besides the two deputies, a prominent Muslim Brotherhood figure as well as nine members of Hamas (which is the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood movement)," one of the sources said. Investigations are underway with the detained Muslim Brotherhood figure, who lives in

Zarqa, and the Hamas people, who were found with a "large cache of arms and ammunition in Amman," the source told the Jordan Times. According to this and other sources, who asked not to be identified by name, the security forces arrested Mamdouh Mhaisen, a member of the Zarqa municipal Council, two weeks ago after a search of his home uncovered an assortment of guns and rifles. According to the sources, Mr. Mhaisen is one of the senior leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Zarqa; he holds the post of deputy head of the city's branch of the organisation and is the man in charge of its "security branch" in the whole Governorate of Zarqa. Sources also confirmed reports about the arrest of nine members of Hamas after they were found

to have stored arms in six different locations in Amman. The arms included 40 Kalashnikov (AK-47) rifles, 40 hand grenades, 20 guns and a large quantity of ammunition. The nine suspects were arrested several weeks ago and investigations were being completed before the suspects are turned over to the State Security Court for trial, the sources said. Since the arrest of deputies Qarrash and Shbeilat, the Brotherhood movement has made a point of condemning all illegal militant action by any group. It has denied all knowledge of the arms found with Hamas or the movement's involvement in the Mhaisen case. A spokesperson for the movement was quoted as denying that his organisation has any connection to illegal groupings, whether

directly or indirectly. "The movement rejects categorically any action by any militant group which threatens the security of Jordan," the Jordan-based Arabic daily Al Hayat quoted the spokesperson as saying. He was not named. Coming on the heels of the much publicised detention of the two members of parliament, the announcement of the other arrests is being seen as the government's way of indicating that the two deputies have not been targeted personally and that there were other activities on other fronts which the government will not tolerate either. The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker denies that it has any predetermined political position towards any of these arrests and maintains that its only role is to ensure that the law takes its course, with the security of the

country being protected and "everyone ... given legal protection," as one senior official put it. While some reports in foreign-based Arabic papers predicted that the crackdown on these armed groups could indicate "a dangerous turning point between the Islamist movements in the country and the government," analysts and observers maintain that there are too many indications which would contradict this theory. On the one hand, analysts point out, the government and the Brotherhood have maintained good relations based on tacit agreements to allow the movement to operate freely and hold bases of power in the country. The government, in turn, is presented with only the move-

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## Has Mideast peace process become irreversible?

By Alan Elsner  
Reporter

WASHINGTON — At what point does the Middle East peace process attain such momentum it becomes irreversible?

Some, though not all, of the officials involved in the last session of negotiations — Israelis, Arabs and Americans — believe they may be approaching that invisible point.

"In the region, there is a feeling that the Arab-Israeli conflict is on a resolution course," said one senior Israeli negotiator earlier this week. "We sense it in our dealings with Arabs in general."

A U.S. official involved in the negotiations concurred. "Inevitably, we are on a path at least leading to an interim agreement on self-government for the Palestinians in the occupied territories," he said.

"Don't ask me to give a date. But if you walk out of the movie before the final reel, you are liable to miss

the happy ending," said the official.

Others are still not convinced. The pace of the talks, which went into a 10-day recess on Thursday night, remains slow, and some analysts warn that without a breakthrough soon the process could wither.

There is the uncertainty of what might happen if President George Bush loses the November presidential election, which would deprive negotiations of the strong guiding hand of former Secretary of State James Baker.

"I agree that things are moving in the direction of peace. The conflict is dwindling and moving gradually towards a resolution," said Barry Rubin of Johns Hopkins University.

"But although things are becoming more peaceful, that doesn't mean there will be peace in the sense of full, formal peace agreements," he said.

Mr. Rubin argued that all sides, particularly the Palesti-

nians, had to make a leap of faith by taking some difficult, possibly dangerous decisions. Nobody has yet made a serious concession at the negotiating table, he noted.

Still, it is undeniable that in the past few years, much has changed in the Middle East.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Many of the old symbols of the conflict, which engulfed the region in five wars since the emergence of a Jewish state in 1948, are already gone. Others are withering away.

The big taboo — that Arabs and Israelis could not sit down together and negotiate — was finally erased at last October's landmark Madrid peace conference. Six subsequent rounds of negotiations in Washington have made what was then unthinkable seem routine.

Arab diplomats no longer

refer to the "Zionist entity" when they mean Israel, they no longer deny the legitimacy of a Jewish state in the region.

Israel's new government seems to have come to terms with the idea that it is dealing with a Palestinian people with national rights, though most Israelis would still reject the concept of an independent Palestinian state.

A Middle East diplomat said the Arab boycott of firms trading with Israel was likely to be quietly shelved within the next few weeks. In any case, he said, it was hardly being observed by anybody any more.

Israel's peace treaty with Egypt has weathered 13 years of ups and downs and now looks firmer than ever. Though relations have occasionally frayed and have rarely been warm, the Israeli flag fluttering over its Cairo embassy has never been lowered.

Apart from the direct peace talks, which match Israel with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palesti-

nians, much of the rest of the Arab World is involved in regional talks with the Israelis on topics like arms control, sharing water resources and improving the environment.

Saudi Arabia, the guardian of the Muslim holy places, has established a flourishing dialogue with American Jewish leaders and hosted an avowedly Zionist delegation in a successful visit earlier this year.

But rejectionist sentiment still flourishes in some corners of the Islamic World, notably in Iran and Iraq and in religious fundamentalist movements that have been gaining strength through the Arab World.

The militant Hizbollah (Party of God) is expected to score more successes in the third round of national elections in Lebanon this weekend.

"The peace talks look firm. Nobody wants to walk out and make a scene. But the pace is slow and it still looks like it might take a long time," said Mr. Rubin.

## Security tight for S. Lebanon elections

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Syrian-backed government tightened security in the south Saturday in the face of strong Christian opposition to Sunday's third and final stage of general elections.

Christians boycotting the polls, the first in 20 years, say they were being held under Syrian pressure to strengthen the grip of Damascus, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon, over the country.

Half-a-million people are eligible to vote in South Lebanon Sunday to choose 23 deputies from 131 candidates to the 128-seat national assembly. North and east Lebanon, Beirut and Mount Lebanon voted on the two previous Sundays.

Thousands of Lebanese troops deployed overnight in the south and took tight security measures to ensure the elections would not be marred by violence, military sources said.

Hundreds of policemen also took up positions in a United Nations area bordering Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon to supervise voting there.

The government of President Elias Hrawi has set up polling stations inside the area named by United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers to allow the residents of the buffer zone to vote.

But the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which controls the enclave, closed all passageways linking the zone to the rest of the south to ban voters from venturing out of the enclave to cast their ballots.

SLA chief Antoine Lahd said he closed the passageways because "most of the people here (inside zone) don't want to vote. The security of the voters is not ensured as the government has been accusing some people of dealing with Israel."

About 180,000 Muslims, Christians and Druze live in the zone, a 15-kilometer deep area twisting along the Israeli border from Mount Hermon to the Mediterranean.

The area about 80,000 voters registered in the zone, but official sources say the actual number of voters is much lower as many people had fled the area.

General Lahd, a Maronite Christian, said the elections were a fake but pledged he would not use the gun to stop it.

Christian areas in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and the "security zone" observed a complete shutdown Saturday for the second straight day in response to a call by Christian opposition groups to protest against the polls.

The contest in South Lebanon is mainly between two candidate lists: One made up of traditional leaders, and the second a coalition of leftist and Muslim groups, including the Syrian-backed Amal movement, Ba'ath party and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah.

Mainly pro-Syrian candidates have won seats already decided.

## NAM urges immediate protection of Palestinians

JAKARTA (Agencies) — The non-aligned summit called Friday for the immediate protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories and said the United Nations should be more active in handling the problem.

A declaration issued after a meeting of the non-aligned committee on Palestine said the situation in the occupied territories continues to be of grave concern because of Israel's persistence in claiming it.

"The members of the committee were of the opinion that a more active involvement of the United Nations, of which the members of the movement are members, is called for," the declaration said. It did not elaborate.

The committee met during the week-long summit meeting of heads of state or government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a 108-nation group of mostly Third World countries.

Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), briefed the committee on the Middle East peace process.

The committee expressed concern that after 10 months the process had not achieved tangible results.

Mr. Arafat has won star status with the Indonesian media during the summit and has also captured the hearts of many outside the conference.

"Long live Arafat, long live

Palestine," a crowd of about 100 chanted as he left a Jakarta mosque after Friday prayers.

Mr. Arafat and leaders of Middle East states such as Iran and Saudi Arabia briefly put aside their differences to pray together at the Istiglal Mosque.

"I am proud of him and I sympathise with his struggle to get his country back from Zionist Israel," said one Muslim.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, though the government has effectively eradicated fundamentalism from the political scene.

The Indonesian media and many of the workers at the summit flock around Mr. Arafat every time he appears in the conference hall with his trademark keffiyeh head-dress and holstered pistol, treating him like a celebrity.

"Not to us, he isn't," fumed a Kuwaiti delegate, angry at Mr. Arafat's support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

At a news conference for local journalists Thursday night, Mr. Arafat spoke of his recent marriage to 28-year-old Suha Tawil, but said he was more wedded to the Palestinian cause.

"Until now no one wanted me but at last a woman has accepted me. Don't forget I am a Muslim, so I can have four wives three for Palestine and one for myself," he joked.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ethiopians hijack airliner to Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (R) — An Ethiopian Airlines airliner was hijacked on a domestic flight on Friday and forced to land in the neighbouring Red Sea state of Djibouti, official sources said. Sources at Djibouti airport said the hijackers, believed to be four Ethiopian men and a woman, released the 46 passengers and eight crew on the Boeing 727 after a three-hour siege and surrendered to the Djibouti authorities. State-owned Ethiopian Airlines has suffered several hijackings since the rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) overthrew dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in May 1991. Political analysts said the hijackings were carried out either by dissidents or economic refugees.

#### Israel launches air link to China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Thursday inaugurated its first air passenger service to China with an El Al Jumbo flight to Peking. China established diplomatic ties with Israel in January. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is to visit Israel later this month, the highest ranking Chinese official to visit the Jewish state.

#### Algerian forces wound fundamentalist

ALGIERS (R) — Paramilitary forces shot and wounded a militant of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the eastern region of Tizi Ouzou, Algeria's gendarmerie headquarters said Friday. The 29-year-old man was stopped by a patrol but tried to flee despite warning shots. Eleven cassettes containing "seditious sermons" and subversive pamphlets were found in his car, the official news agency APS said. The FIS was banned last March after Muslim fundamentalist unrest. Security forces clamped down on mosques used by FIS imams to criticise the authorities and to stir militant fervor for an Islamic state.

#### Two released in Cyprus forged cheque case

NICOSIA (R) — Two Lebanese men arrested on suspicion of cashing a forged \$120,000 cheque have been freed after Cyprus police said they found no evidence against them. Hussein Raef Ptouni and Rached Ramez Zayat were arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of trying to cash a forged cheque at a Bank of Cyprus branch in the holiday resort of Larnaca. The town's district court remanded them in custody for eight days but they were freed Thursday. Police said the two had received the cheque from Lebanon.

#### Policeman dies of his wounds in Upper Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — A policeman died under surgery Friday after his leg was blown off by a hand grenade hurled by Muslim militants in Upper Egypt, security sources said. A second conscript policeman was also wounded in the leg in the attack on a police station in Kafr Sarhan, a village in Assiut province about 325 kilometres south of Cairo. A spokesman for the fundamentalist Islamic group in Assiut claimed responsibility for the assault, saying it was in revenge for last month's killing of seven militants by the police.

#### Greek Cypriot to marry Turk

NICOSIA (R) — A lovestruck Greek-Cypriot teenager living in the island's Turkish-occupied north has shocked her family by eloping with her Turkish boyfriend. Harouna Elia, 16, ran away from her home in the enclave of Rizokarpaso, where about 500 Greek Cypriots still live, and is now living with the family of her 18 year old fiance Mehmet Gungor, who came from Turkey with his family at the age of two. She told police in a statement: "I am happy with Mehmet's family. They treat me as one of their children." Elia, who is now planning marriage, fled at dead of night on Aug. 27 after her parents opposed their two-year relationship. "My father tried to force me to make a choice between him and Mehmet. But I want to be with the man I love. Nobody can separate us," she said.

## U.S. warns China not to sell arms to Mideast

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has stepped into a murky legal quagmire to defend its sale of 150 F-16 jet fighters to Taiwan and warned China not to retaliate by shipping arms to the Middle East.

The U.S. administration defended President George Bush's decision to sell the planes to China on strategic grounds, saying it would promote peace and stability in East Asia.

Most commentators saw the decision, which ended a 10-year prohibition against Taiwan acquiring advanced U.S. warplanes as a straight vote-getting move by Mr. Bush, who is trailing Democratic presidential hopeful Bill Clinton in the polls two months before the Nov. 3 general election.

China reacted furiously and threatened to pull out of talks among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council aimed at curbing international weapons sales.

On the face of it, Mr. Bush's decision seemed to contradict a 1982 communiqué which he helped negotiate with Peking when he was vice president under Ronald Reagan.

In that document, the United States stated "that its arms sales to Taiwan will not exceed either in qualitative or quantitative

terms the level of those supplied in recent years, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China, and that it intends to gradually reduce its sale of arms to Taiwan."

But U.S. State Department spokesman Joe Snyder insisted there was no contradiction between the communiqué and the sale of F-16s because Taiwan's ageing force of antiquated F5s and F-104s were going out of service and needed to be replaced.

"We said we would be providing spare parts. It's impossible now to provide the spare parts for the old aircraft that they have, and we're maintaining the quality of that air force in the only way that we have available," said Mr. Snyder.

Mr. Snyder said Peking's recent acquisition of Russian SU-27 aircraft was a factor in the decision which would give Taiwan the confidence necessary to continue to improve relations with Peking.

One of Washington's key concerns is that China, which agreed under heavy U.S. pressure last year not to sell ballistic missiles and other advanced weapons to Arab states, might go back on its pledge as a way of demonstrating its anger over the Taiwan deal.

## Judge rejects Justice Department move to limit 'Ivan' evidence

NASHVILLE (AP) — A judge Friday scheduled an October hearing on allegations the Justice Department knew it may have sent an innocent man to face trial as Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible."

U.S. District Judge Thomas A. Wiseman set aside Oct. 15-16 as the first two days to question present and former Justice Department lawyers in the case of John Demjanjuk, a retired auto worker from Cleveland, Ohio.

Friday's meeting with Mr. Wiseman and government and defence lawyers was designed to set ground rules for the investigation into whether there was misconduct by prosecutors.

Demjanjuk, 72, is a native of the Ukraine who was a naturalised American citizen for 30 years before he was arrested in 1977 and accused of hiding his role as "Ivan." This is the nickname given by Jewish survivors to Ivan Marchenko, a Nazi guard who operated gas chamber at Treblinka in Poland in 1942 and 1943.

Demjanjuk, who proclaimed his innocence, said he was in the

Soviet army when Nazis captured him and imprisoned in another camp during the period in question.

He nonetheless was stripped of his citizenship through denaturalisation proceedings, ordered deported in 1986 and extradited to Israel.

"Demjanjuk was a victim," his son-in-law, Edward Nishnic of Cleveland, told reporters. "He was in a prisoner-of-war camp at China, also known as Stalag 319. It was a place where they captured about 250,000 Red Army soldiers."

Demjanjuk was convicted in Israel of war crimes in 1988 and sentenced to death. He continues to maintain his innocence and is appealing his conviction to the Israeli supreme court. Mr. Nishnic predicted that the Israeli supreme court will overturn the conviction.

Mr. Nishnic said he has quit his job, devoted himself to vindicating Demjanjuk, raising funds as he can. He said he and his wife, Irene, are about \$160,000 in debt.

## Diplomats dismiss report of Abu Musa settlement

DUBAI (R) — Gulf diplomats Saturday dismissed Iranian claims that a dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the small but strategic Gulf island of Abu Musa was resolved.

"Nothing has been settled as far as we know. The Iranians have effectively taken over the island. They won't talk about the details," one western diplomat said.

Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's U.N. ambassador, said in Jakarta Friday that "nothing exists unresolved between Iran and the United Arab Emirates."

But the diplomats said that the Iranians had so far refused to discuss the issue in contacts between the two governments. They said that Iranian diplomats were saying the issue was resolved a week ago when no progress had been made.

The normally recalcitrant UAE government Wednesday issued an unusual statement warning Iran that its actions on the island, which lies halfway between the UAE and Iran's shores of the Gulf, threatened to disrupt traditional close ties between the two countries.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani met UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Naimi at a Non-Aligned Movement conference in Indonesia Friday.

Iran's IRNA news agency said Mr. Rafsanjani had stressed Tehran's friendship with the UAE. The report did not mention Abu Musa.

Britain ran the foreign relations of the lower Gulf states

before the UAE was set up in 1971.

Abu Musa was then controlled from the sheikhdom of Sharjah but Britain, before leaving, negotiated an agreement with Tehran under which Iran was allowed to deploy a garrison on the island.

The diplomats said that Iran started to impose its laws on the island in April, in clear contravention of its 1971 deal with Britain.

Mr. Kharrazi said Iran was acting within its right to control security on Abu Musa when it turned back a ferry carrying more than 100 people on Aug. 24.

"The security of the island and control of the island is with Iran" under the 1971 agreement, he told Reuters in Jakarta where he was attending non-aligned summit.

But the agreement, which was published at the time and is freely available here, makes no mention of security.

The one-page document recognises that neither Iran nor Sharjah has given up its claim to the whole island. It sets up arrangements under which Iran is allowed to maintain a garrison in the north of island while Sharjah maintains "full jurisdiction" over the rest of Abu Musa.

Mr. Kharrazi said the 1971 agreement remained in force and UAE nationals were free to come and go as they wished.

"The only thing which recently was brought up was the issue of inviting foreigners, inviting nationals from other countries, which we found out may be against

the security of the island," he added.

The diplomats said a few score foreign workers who served Abu Musa's 2,000 or so Arab residents had been there for years.

They include teachers at the island's two schools, one each for boys and girls, and workers at a clinic, a power station and a police post who all worked for the UAE government.

The ferry turned back on Aug. 24 was carrying teachers, mainly Egyptians, returning to the island after summer holidays. About a dozen UAE nationals on board, who were also barred entry, included the island's governor.

"Security seems to be an excuse. The Iranians have in effect taken control of the whole island in contravention of the agreement," one diplomat said.

Gulf officials said that since the arrival of the Iranian troops in 1971, the island had not been divided and the two sides had lived side-by-side without serious incident.

The explosion by Iranian police of about 200 foreign workers in April had therefore come as a complete surprise.

Mr. Rafsanjani visited Abu Musa without much publicity in February but later reports of his visit said he told Iranian troops stationed there the island was a front-line in Iran's defence.

Western diplomats said Iran's actions had reinforced intelligence reports that it may be preparing to set up a major naval base on Abu Musa, which lies close to the main deep-water shipping channel in the Gulf.

## Ancient temple linked to Aphrodite unearthed

NICOSIA (AP) — American archaeologists have uncovered an ancient temple they believe provides a link to the legend of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, and her mortal lover Adonis, the antiquities department said Friday.

The discovery this summer by a University of Arizona team at the site of the ancient city of Idalion, near the town of Dhal 30 kilometres southwest of Nicosia.

The Kingdom of Idalion thrived from around earliest antiquity until the early Christian period when it was destroyed. Cyprus is studied with the relic of a rich history spanning 8,000 years, during which a dozen major civilisations left their imprint on the island.

The department said statues and inscriptions found in the Ida-

lion temple show clearly that "the male deity worshipped there was called 'Apollo Anyklos' by the ancient Greeks, and 'Reshet Mikal' by Phoenician inhabitants of the area."

"He was almost certainly a local, Cypriot god who was referred to as 'the lord' in ancient Cypriot. That name would have translated as 'Adon' in Phoenician, and that is certainly the origin of the Greek name 'Adonis,'" the statement said.

It added that on the same Eastern Acropolis of Ancient Idalion, above the Adonis sanctuary, "was the site of the ancient, venerable sanctuary of the 'great mother,' identified by the later Greeks as Aphrodite, the goddess of love."

The department said that the "pairing of the sanctuaries" of

Aphrodite and Adonis testifies to "the ancient mythic love story of Aphrodite and Adonis, said to have taken place on the hillsides of Idalion."

As legend has it, Aphrodite fell in love with Adonis, a handsome young shepherd, and was heartbroken when he was killed by a wild boar.

The U.S. team led by Pamela Gabor and William Dever, both of the University of Arizona, was sponsored by the University of New York's Brooklyn College, the University of Indianapolis and private donors.

The announcement said the expedition plans to continue work on the site next summer.

Part of the Adonis temple was first discovered in 1860 by R.H. Lang, the then British consul in Cyprus, which was then part of

the Ottoman empire.

But over the last century, little was done to further excavate the temple until this year's expedition.

"The antiquities department said some of the structures unearthed by the Americans "have been undisturbed since antiquity."

It added that "the remains of many cooking pots and household pottery wares were found alongside a very few precious stilt black glaze and Cypriot biochrome wares, that must have been hundreds of years old when they were last used."

The archaeologists also excavated the homes of ordinary citizens of Idalion during a later period of the kingdom's history around 200 B.C.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Michael Vaillant  
17:35 Des Chiffres et des lettres  
18:15 La Chanson des Chateaux  
19:00 News French  
19:15 Magazine E.M6  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Coach  
21:10 The Green World  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Green Kiosk

### PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr  
06:00 Sunrise  
12:34 Dhuhr  
16:09 Asr  
19:00 Maghrib  
20:21 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 510740  
Anglican Church of God Church, Tel. 637785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terminus Church Tel. 622566  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851 Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812255  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 628624, 649532  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 676601

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop gradually and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 21 / 34

Aqaba 26 / 40

Desert 18 / 38

Jordan Valley 24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 38, Aqaba 42, Humidity readings:

Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Joseph Issah 770560  
Dr. Saad Ali 745000  
Dr. Khalid Ma'addi 745000  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070  
Fina pharmacy 661912  
Fardous pharmacy 778336  
Al Aseem pharmacy 637605  
Nairoukh pharmacy 632072  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

#### IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Samman (-)  
Dr. Al Shama pharmacy 273825

#### ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Al Haddad 985520  
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 19



## Rural affairs decides to cut back building to save agricultural land

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the environment has recently decided to curtail building around cities and villages to protect agricultural land.

The statement was made by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Dr. Abdul Razzak Tabei who said that two other reasons prompted the ministry to take the decision. They are because of large plots of lands within the towns and village boundaries are still unused for buildings, and second, because of rising cost of providing municipal services to remote regions.

"We are at the same time monitoring the rise in the price of lands and keeping an eye on the needs of towns and villages for their needs of expansion and the lands that are useful for cultivation," the minister said.

The ministry is keen to halt urban development to save agricultural lands and also is keen on ensuring municipal services to the residents, Dr. Tabei added.

The minister said that he had told heads of municipal and village councils that no citizen should be allowed to build homes outside the boundaries of organised lands without referring to

the ministry for permission. The ministry has now submitted a draft for a temporary law on planning and organising lands for urban development and agriculture to the government which will refer it to parliament for approval, according to Dr. Tabei. He said once endorsed, the law would serve as a substitute to the 1985 law.

With reference to state owned lands in Zarqa and Rusafa occupied by squatters, the minister said that plans are underway to settle this problem speedily. He noted that citizens in the two areas have built their homes on state-owned land without permission. The plan entails first conducting an estimate of the value of the land and then instructions will be issued on matters related to collecting the price of the land before they can be formally registered in the names of the squatters, he said.

Referring to joint service councils for villages, the minister said that a specialised committee has been studying means of promoting their services to the local community. There are now 96 such councils which are being reduced to 58 so that better services can be provided through them to the local inhabitants, he

said. The government has just passed a law on municipalities intended to give a larger margin of freedom and power to the local municipal councils and enable the local councils to increase their income, the minister said.

Indeed, some municipal councils have embarked on projects far bigger than they could afford, imposing additional financial burdens on their townspeople, said the minister. He attributed this to a lack of proper feasibility studies.

Referring to the environment, Dr. Tabei said that a special technical committee grouping representatives from various government departments is cooperating with an international expert in drawing up a draft law on the environment now that the national strategy on the environment has been endorsed.

Special attention will be given by the committee to the trucks that remove waste cesspools because the waste is being dumped in the sites assigned for only solid waste and in places where no waste treatment plants exist, the minister said. He added that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is required to extend a helping hand in dealing with this problem.



Air Command Academy course opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleh, the chief of staff of the Royal Land Forces opened Saturday the third course of the Air Command and Staff Academy. The chief of staff of the land forces delivered an address at the opening ceremony, underlining the goals of the academy. The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of the armed forces and the air force officers.

## Swedish Christian group on mission to study how it can help bring peace to region

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Christian Adult Education Associations in Sweden discussed the Middle East and the peace process Saturday with Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif.

The delegation members, who are touring the Middle East, were briefed by Mr. Sharif on the developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and Jordan's demand for a just solution that would guarantee stability and security for all countries in the region.

The minister told the 16-member delegation led by Stig Holmberg that Jordan has been seeking a just and durable solution to the Middle East problem and an end to the plight of the Palestinian people, who are now facing atrocities by the Israeli authorities.

The delegation members, who are due to leave Amman Sunday for the occupied West Bank, are familiarising themselves with the Middle East region to determine the role their churches can play to improve the situation, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Sharif was quoted by the agency as telling the delegation about the continued Israeli tor-

ture of Arab detainees in Israeli jails, demanding that Europe contribute to the peace process and help establish peace and security in the region.

Mr. Holmberg told the Jordan Times that the delegation will familiarise themselves with the economic, political and social structures not only of the occupied Arab lands but also in countries surrounding the holy land.

The group is also monitoring a project for bringing pilgrims and tourists from the Scandinavian countries to Jordan and the holy land. The project has been going on for some time, Mr. Holmberg said, adding that he was spearheading the pilgrims and tourist project and has contacted Royal Jordanian (RJ) to persuade it to fly to Copenhagen or Berlin to pick up groups of pilgrims.

Mr. Holmberg said that pilgrims coming from Scandinavia would first come to Amman before visiting the holy land and later the archaeological sites in Jordan before ending their tour.

Before the Gulf War, nearly 500 pilgrims used to come to Amman every year in the course of visiting the holy land, said Mr. Holmberg, who was trying to raise and strengthen this project.

## Major firms win contract for 1st phase of supply complex

AMMAN (Petra) — A consortium of three major Jordanian firms Saturday won a contract for the first phase of a two-stage supply complex in Zarqa which will have an overall cost of JD1,250,000.

Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf, who signed the deal, said that the complex will be the fifth of its kind to be built by the ministry in Jordan. This complex is needed to meet the growing needs of the Zarqa governorate of supply materials and to offer facilities for the local merchants to get their requirements of supply materials, he said.

The setting up of complexes of

this kind helped to apply the decentralisation policy adopted by the Ministry in various areas of Jordan, allowing each complex sufficient powers and freedom to act independently and to plan and keep the amounts of food supplies that are needed by the local population, said Mr. Saqqaf.

The first phase of the project entails building the infrastructure like roads, administrative offices, surrounding walls, two large warehouses capable of storing up to 20,000 tonnes of food supplies, said the minister. The infrastructure, he said, is expected to be completed in ten months from now.

## National committee set up to channel donations for King's recovery to charity

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to royal directives, a national committee has been set up to divert donations and contributions for celebrating His Majesty King Hussein's recovery to charity work and helping Jordan's poor.

The announcement was made by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi who has been entrusted with chairing the committee by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has now set up a committee which will be known as the "Al Hussein Call Committee" to supervise raising funds to be distributed to the poor, Sheikh Tamimi said.

The committee has also set up sub-committees to operate in towns and villages outside Amman, the minister noted.

The national committee comprises prominent personalities from the Ministry of Awqaf and the Zakat (alms for the poor) Fund, the minister added. He said that the committees in the provinces will be chaired by

the local governors who will receive funds and distribute them to needy people on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday on Wednesday.

The minister announced that the Regent has donated JD15,000 to this cause and urged all Jordanian citizens to offer contributions to help the needy and poor people of Jordan.

According to the minister, benefactors can channel their contributions through special accounts opened at the Housing Bank, the Arab Bank and the Islamic Bank in all areas of the country, or through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Amman.

The minister expressed hope that Jordanian citizens will rally to this call and will contribute generously towards helping the poor on this holy occasion.

He noted that the flood of advertisements appearing in the local press offering their congratulations to the King for his recovery has subsided. He interpreted this as a sign that the funds will now go to the poor instead. In a message last Thursday to

the Regent, King Hussein, who is recuperating after surgery in the United States, has called on the Jordanian people to divert funds meant for celebrating his recovery to charity.

In his message, the King voiced his deep gratitude for the overwhelming feeling of support and good wishes as expressed by the people of Jordan on his recovery. But, he said that the manifestations of joy should be handled in the spirit of Islam and the nation's noble traditions by being used for charity.

The minister, who sent a letter to the Crown Prince complying with the royal directives, informed the Regent of the formation of the central committee and the committees in the provinces. He said that the committees will do all they can to raise funds and to distribute them to the needy.

Jordan Television conducted a number of interviews with members of the public who expressed their desire to offer donations on this occasion. Some said that apart from the donations they intend to hold celebrations, expressing their joy over the King's recovery.

## Vandalism follows leadership feud at Jordanian Lutheran Church

By Mariam M. Shalhin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A feud over the leadership of the Jordanian Lutheran Church has erupted between church heads of the Lutheran congregation in Jordan and Jerusalem and threatens to become a legal battle that will involve the government of Jordan, said members of the Lutheran congregation in Amman.

The feud, involving the Lutheran Archbishop of Jerusalem Naim Nasser and the head of the Jordanian congregation Reverend Numan Smeir, broke out in June over who will head the Jordanian branch of the church and ended with vandalism of the Amman church property in August.

The feud is bound to have a number of grave consequences for the small community of Lutherans, some 300-500 people, as well as for other religious communities in Jordan, community members say.

The feud peaked on August 10 when 35-40 men walked into the Lutheran church in Um Summaq and smashed several sectors of the church and broke a framed picture of His Majesty King Hussein.

The church's guardian, Reverend Numan Smeir, has left the vandalized parts of the church untouched for all to see.

While a subsequent police investigation of the incident led to the detention of the "vandals," it also officially deposed Reverend Numan, who lives in the church compound, from his post as head

of the Jordanian Lutheran Church.

While Reverend Smeir has accused the Archbishop of instigating the vandals in a campaign to depose him, no police action has been taken against the Archbishop.

"On the contrary, in a letter signed by the head of the Amman municipality, Issa Omari, I was asked to give the church keys to the Archbishop," Reverend Smeir told the Jordan Times.

While Mr. Omari was not available for comment, Minister of Interior officials have said that according to a 1950's law the Archbishop in Jerusalem have a hierarchical leadership position above those in Amman and have the power to retire priests in Amman early if they see fit.

Reverend Smeir counters that since the Lutheran church has no official hierarchy such a law cannot be applied to his church.

He also insists that since he continues to preside over Sunday sermons and christening he is "de facto" still the head of the Lutheran church in Jordan.

The high attendance during Sunday mass as well as the support he has received from the Lutheran Higher Council in Amman is all he needs to continue with his tasks, says Reverend Smeir.

Furthermore, the deposing of a head of the Lutheran church by a Jerusalem-based Archbishop opens the doors for further "interference" in local church issues, say members of the Reverend Smeir's congregation.

One member of the congrega-

tion argued that such hierarchical arrangements are incompatible with the disengagement between the two River banks that was introduced by King Hussein in 1988.

While only one of the two parties would speak to the Jordan Times about the leadership dilemma within the church, the Jordanian government provided some information about the legal and governmental consequences of the case.

In his capacity of deputy to the Lutheran Archbishop of Jerusalem, Reverend Numan Smeir founded the Jordanian Lutheran church with the help of Lutheran charities in Sweden and Finland in 1979. He received official Jordanian government approval in 1983, and subsequently raised money to build a church, community centre and kindergarten in a compound in the Um Summaq neighborhood of West Amman. He has headed the Church's Central Committee since 1979.

Today the monetary worth of the church compound is estimated at more than 2 million Jordanian dinars and includes a home for the head of the church.

The battle over the church's leadership must be resolved in part by the Jordanian government which must decide what role it will play in church affairs.

Lutherans in Amman say that if the disengagement decision, in which legal and administrative ties between east and west banks were broken, is deemed as also pertaining to religious politics then Reverend Smeir will have nothing to worry about.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Arabiyyat discusses cooperation with Iraqi National Assembly speaker

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyyat met with Saadi Mahdi Saleh, Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, at his office Saturday and discussed Jordanian-Iraqi parliamentary cooperation. Mr. Saleh briefed Dr. Arabiyyat on the situation in Iraq and the present difficulties facing the Iraqi people because of sweeping U.N. economic sanctions.

#### Public holiday on Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will close Wednesday Sept. 9 on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's Birthday, according to an official statement issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thaqan Hindawi, the statement requested all government and private institutions to celebrate the occasion. On the occasion of Prophet Mohammad's Birthday, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will organise Tuesday at the Palace of Culture at Al Hussein Youth City a major religious celebration. The celebration will be held under the Royal Patronage.

#### Deir Abi Saeed — Irbid road closes

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — The Department of Public Works in the Irbid governorate has embarked on the second phase of a project for improving the Deir Abi Saeed Highway and for dealing with damage to the road caused by snow storms last winter. A department official said that the road linking Deir Abi Saeed with Irbid has been closed temporarily and all traffic has been diverted to the Jordan Valley — Deir Abi Saeed — Irbid-Tibneh Road. He said that the work will take 25 days to complete.

#### JUST mechanical engineering dept. given a boost

AMMAN — Delegation from Concordia University in Canada visited the engineering faculty at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on Saturday. This visit comes as a result of a cooperation agreement signed last week. The direct objective of the present visit is to write down a proposal for financial support. The aim of such a proposal will be the development of JUST's production programme in the mechanical engineering department to better serve Jordan's industrial sector by training and developing production and manufacturing. Concordia University will train a number of the faculty members and students in manufacturing engineering. Short courses and training workshops are to be held at JUST for students and engineers from the industrial sector in Jordan to develop the small and medium size industries in Jordan.

### Gastroenterology conference to open in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Society for Gastroenterology is organising its first-ever conference in Amman on Wednesday evening playing host to at least 250 specialists from Jordan and Arab and foreign countries. The announcement was made by Dr. Wael Fadel who heads the society's scientific unit in a statement to the Jordan Times.

Participants to the three-day meeting, he said, will discuss a host of topics ranging from ulcers to gastroenterological inflammatory diseases and the digestive system. They will also listen to state of the art lectures delivered by famous specialists and guest participants from France, the United States and the United Kingdom.

### WHAT'S ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Ali Rifka at Alka Art Gallery.
- ★ Art Exhibition by Rakaa Dabboush at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramallah, Nabila Hishm and Dodi Tabash at the National Gallery, Jabal Lweishah Park.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Horizon" by Artists Qasem Al Samir and Najah Al Rabi at the Housing Bank Gallery.

## ATF to discuss politics, economics and law in Arab-Japanese forum

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will organise a third Arab-Japanese dialogue under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sept. 19.

An ATF statement Saturday said that the two-day parley in Amman will be attended by Arab and Japanese intellectuals, politicians and writers.

The participants will discuss a host of political, legal, economic and ideological ideas that led to the new world order and the new world economic order and their impact on economic relations between Japan and the Arab world, the statement said.

The Middle East conflict and collective security will be among the main items on the agenda, it added.

The meetings will include a separate roundtable discussion on "towards a new International Humanitarian Order" that will review topics such as the responsibility of industrialised nations towards Third world countries, cooperation between countries in the southern hemisphere within the framework of the new world order and dialogue between world cultures.

The statement recalled that the first ATF organised Arab Japanese dialogue was held in Amman in September 1989, and the second, in Tokyo in September 1991.

According to the statement, the second dialogue focused on five basic issues including the new world order, the Palestine ques-

tion, the Gulf crisis, the future of Arab Japanese economic cooperation and cooperation between Japan and the Arab World in cultural and information fields.

The participants differed over the concept of the new world order, noting that what has been applied against Iraq was not applied against Israel for similar acts.

The Arab participants criticised the United States for being biased towards Israel, helping it to absorb Jewish immigrants in the occupied Jewish territories.

The participants were almost unanimous in their belief that the Gulf war was aimed at breaking the back of an Arab country that was the main threat to Israel's security.

On the future of Arab-Japanese cooperation, the participants said disagreement on

cooperation on oil and trade.

In discussing cultural and informational cooperation, participants on both sides stressed the need for further publishing information about Japan in the Arab World and vice versa.

With reference to the first dialogue, which was held in Amman, the statement said that it covered a host of cultural, political and ideological points. Furthermore, the participants reviewed human values and their effect on development, it said.

The first dialogue discussed cases of cooperation between Japan and the Arab World in industrial fields and education.

The participants demanded that Japan allocate part of its vast financial surplus to help promote development in the Middle East.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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## Key's to wait

THE DETENTION of Lower House of Parliament members Leith Shbeilat and Yakoub Qarash has naturally not only attracted wide attention and interest but also caused controversy here and abroad. It is only right, therefore, to view the arrests of the two deputies in proper perspective and against the backdrop of the laws of the country and the basic constitutional rights and freedoms enjoyed by all Jordanians, irrespective of their positions and views.

The first point to keep in mind at all times is the presumption of innocence of all persons until convicted in a court of law. Accordingly, both parliamentarians must be regarded as innocent until a competent court finds either of them, or both, guilty of the criminal charges levelled against them. Second, it would be wrong to draw a parallel between the prosecution of former or incumbent members of the cabinet on the one hand and the prosecution of members of Parliament on the other hand. This is so because the basis on which ministers could be indicted requiring the consent of a two-third majority of deputies is something that need not and should not be enshrined in the laws of the land in the first place. The accountability of a minister, just like that of a parliamentarian, must not be politicised as to make the decision to take either one to court. For a country like ours, committed to the separation of the three branches of government, the decision to prosecute a minister or a member of Parliament should remain with the judicial branch alone. This branch of government obviously needs to move judiciously and carefully before criminal charges are brought against anybody but especially against members of the executive or legislative branches; and when such a move is finally taken, the minister or parliamentarian charged with the commission of any crime should continue to be treated with respect and dignity since everyone is innocent until proven guilty. Access to legal counsel is a fundamental feature of fair trial and all democratic countries guarantee this right as a sine qua non for fair and independent trials. Access to members of one family should not be denied unless it is absolutely established that such family visitations would interfere with the conduct of the investigation. Holding suspects incommunicado for a prolonged period of time violates basic norms associated with fair and proper detention unless there is a pressing need for so doing; the onus of finding proof falls squarely on the state.

The remaining issue is whether the State Security Court or the civil court system has jurisdiction over the kind of cases associated with the arrest of deputies Shbeilat and Qarash. Under our existing laws, the State Security Court does have jurisdiction over all matters affecting state security. So, technically speaking, the court has the authority to try both deputies. Yet, on broader political considerations and in light of the fact that the current laws on state security courts are being debated in Parliament with a view to amending them, it would be more advisable to turn the entire file on both men to the civilian court system since the criminal code of the country can be invoked by these civilian courts as easily as it could be done by the State Security Court. The basic flaw in the existing State Security Court trials lies in the fact that judgements adopted by such a court are not subject to appeal. The draft law on the conduct of the State Security Court system envisages the rectification of such an omission but until such a correction is incorporated, the government will be better advised to refrain from resorting to State Security Court trials unless there is a pressing need for doing so. In the end, neither the deputies in question nor the government can be prejudged by the public or the media and it would be most prudent to await the conclusion of the investigations before more words are said.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Saturday commented on a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which he claimed that the Palestinians were obstructing progress in the peace process and averting any discussion on substantive matters. It is because the Palestinians are demanding the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 that they are considered by Israel as obstructive progress, asked the daily. The paper said that the Palestinians are rightly and justly demanding that land be exchanged for peace and that they regain their rights and lands usurped by force, and demanding also that they have their own legislative power and not a mere authority to carry out administrative affairs during the transitional period. The Palestinians have been displaying clear keenness, during the talks, about their desire to have peace and to discuss essential issues that would achieve that end; while the Israelis have been procrastinating all the time and there is no sign yet that they are willing to change their stand and speed up an Arab-Israeli settlement, the paper said. It is quite clear, said the paper, that the Israelis continue to resort to nice words that can only change the form but not the essence of the whole situation, but they, at the same time, hardened their stands vis-a-vis all the issues on the agenda. Israel had earlier levelled similar accusations at the Jordanian negotiators at the Washington parity, claiming that they were delaying a settlement, continued the daily. It said that only through positive attitudes and practical steps leading to a just settlement can peace be achieved.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised the Ministry of Education for failing to prepare sufficient textbooks for schools which reopened last month, noting that a great number of students are still trying to get school books, four weeks after the start of the new scholastic year. Khalil Abdul Salam quoted the director of Curricula Department at the Ministry of Education as admitting the failure to provide the books, noting that some of the subjects are still to be determined by the Higher Education Council. According to the writer, some of the books are on their way to the printing press and some are in short supply in most of the government and private schools of Jordan.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Economic recovery in the making

The JORDANIAN economy is currently pushing forward in the right direction. Actual results exceeded the targets that were set a year ago and thought to be too tough and ambitious to be attainable.

The above was confirmed by the IMF whose experts came over to examine the actual performance and point out the shortcomings and delays. Instead, they found things far better than the targets. They were obliged to adjust their forecasts and update their figures to keep up with the economic momentum which took place since mid-1991 and accelerated in 1992.

Instead of prodding the officials to act and move in the right direction, the IMF experts were deeply impressed and tried to keep up with the advancement of the Jordanian economy. As a matter of fact, all the fiscal, monetary, trade and investment indicators brought good news.

In the fiscal field, domestic revenue during the first eight months of 1992 exceeded 100 per cent of all recurring expenditure and part of the capital expenditure. This is what all our five-year development plans tried but failed to achieve. It is being achieved now without a formal development plan. The achievement was possible due to the proper implementation of the structural adjustment and the application of sound fiscal policies.

In the monetary area, the performance was equally impressive:

complete stability of the Jordanian dinar against the dollar and relative stability against other major currencies was maintained, accompanied by a sharp rise in the Central Bank reserve of gold and foreign exchange to the highest level at all times, although it was below zero only three years ago.

In foreign trade, imports made a big jump as evidenced by the proceeds of customs duty which, in seven months, exceeded the budgeted amount for the whole year. The extra imports were not meant only to accommodate higher consumption. The major part represents machinery and equipment to accommodate new projects or raw material needed to produce more goods for export. Exports, on the other hand, grew at a fast rate, especially the main export items of phosphate, potash and fertilisers.

Finally, investments took off at an overheated proportion. Tens of new small and medium-size projects are being registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade every day. Construction is going at more than double the normal rate at times of relative prosperity. Total gross investments and capital formation may reach one billion Jordanian dinars for the first time.

These impressive achievements did not come about by good luck. Several factors helped in making it possible. The most important of these factors are: generous aid from Japan, Germany and other countries, cheap Iraqi crude oil, expatriates

who were expelled from Kuwait and brought home with them their expertise and part of their savings, the implementation of the economic adjustment programme and the reduction of external debt burden to a level that the national economy can reasonably tolerate.

True, there is no guarantee that this positive momentum may be maintained in the future. There is a lot of uncertainty, especially when it comes to foreign aid, expatriates' remittances, and export markets. But uncertainty is a way of life in the Middle East has perfected over the years.

The future does not carry risks only, it also carries opportunities: A successful peaceful solution of the Middle East crisis is one, and the gradual ease or full removal of economic sanctions against Iraq is another. Any of these two eventualities would give the Jordanian economy a long-term boost.

To sum it up, Jordan is moving in the right direction, both politically and economically. On the political front, we have an active democratisation process, political pluralism and institutionalised participation in the decision-making, coupled with freedom of expression. On the economic front, a structural reform is under way to remove distortions and reduce deficit, accompanied by liberalisation of the economy and removal of the restrictions that were hindering growth.

## Guided missiles, misguided men

By Robert W. Bermudes

War worked so well for George Bush the last time, there is no reason to believe it would not work again. His star soared in the polls. U.S. air strikes against Iraq aroused nationalist patriotism which gave them an aura of religious legitimacy. The Gulf war also diverted attention, at a critical time, from the same social and economic ills that Americans should hold foremost in their thoughts this election year.

History will one day be forced to record that the Bush administration took advantage of the U.N. as a cover to promote U.S. interests. In 1991, the U.N. refused to use language in Resolution 678 that would authorise the use of force against Iraq, but substituted using "all necessary means" to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, language which was conveniently vague and open to manipulation. The resolution was designed to give Washington a free hand in beginning hostilities with Iraq.

The Bush administration justified military action against Iraq by appealing to international law, but at the same time violated Article 42 of the U.N. Charter which permits sending U.N. forces into combat only under command of the U.N. Military Commission. And thereafter the U.S. repeatedly justified military action against Iraq, with resolutions passed by coercion and bribery.

James Webb, former navy secretary under Ronald Reagan, stated on January 14, 1991: "We have been manoeuvred into war by the Bush administration... We bought and paid for those U.N. resolutions, using taxpayers' money." Two days later Congressman Henry Gonzalez (Texas), presenting a bill of impeachment of George Bush in the House, stated that President Bush had "bribed, intimidated, and threatened" U.N. Security Council members to force their support. He read the following statement into the Congressional Record:

The United States promised \$7bn in economic aid to the Soviet Union [described by George Bush as a "humanitarian" gesture]; promised military assistance to Colombia; promised debt relief and military aid to Zaire; promised \$12bn in arms to Saudi Arabia; threatened Yemen with aid cuts; and paid off \$187m of U.S. debt owed to the United Nations.

When Yemen unexpectedly voted "no" in the Security Council, it may have been the most expensive vote it ever cast. The next day it received word of the termination of all U.S. aid. Thereupon, Yemen's ambassador to the U.N. stated: "It was inconceivable that some members of the Security Council would vote for a resolution to use force which was not based on an article of the U.N. Charter, and by troops which were not under the command of the Security Council." His query has never been answered. But it should be.

At present the stand-off between the Iraqi leadership and U.N. inspection teams has temporarily defused Bush's authorisation of "all necessary means"

to make Saddam Hussain obey United States authority.

Has Bush learnt nothing?

Did George Bush learn nothing from his last "victory" in the Gulf, where his demonic "Hitler", Saddam Hussain, is still in power? Mr. Bush's "victory" was illusory and costly. The people of Iraq, the U.S. and the world cannot afford another military action in the Gulf. And the cost of that war has already undermined the moral principles upon which our democracy stands. Dropping 88,500 tonnes of explosives on Iraq is not token of national glory but of moral sickness.

Perhaps most destructive of all is Mr. Bush's assumption that our use of military force was morally right because it accomplished its objectives at a cost to Americans that was lower than expected: 200 American lives in exchange for 100,000 dead Iraqi soldiers and civilians. Is that slaughter morally justified because Arabs are somehow less human and, therefore, less valuable? This revolting belief has become pervasive, thanks to the president's repeated enunciation of it and the media's unquestioned support. Even the American peace movement and churches, once so prominently in opposition before the Gulf war, have not raised their voice in opposition since.

This racist view promises to

become a pillar of the Bush administration's "new world order". We must challenge it on moral and religious grounds, or allow that Martin Luther King was right when he observed "America is a society whose technology has outstripped its civilisation. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

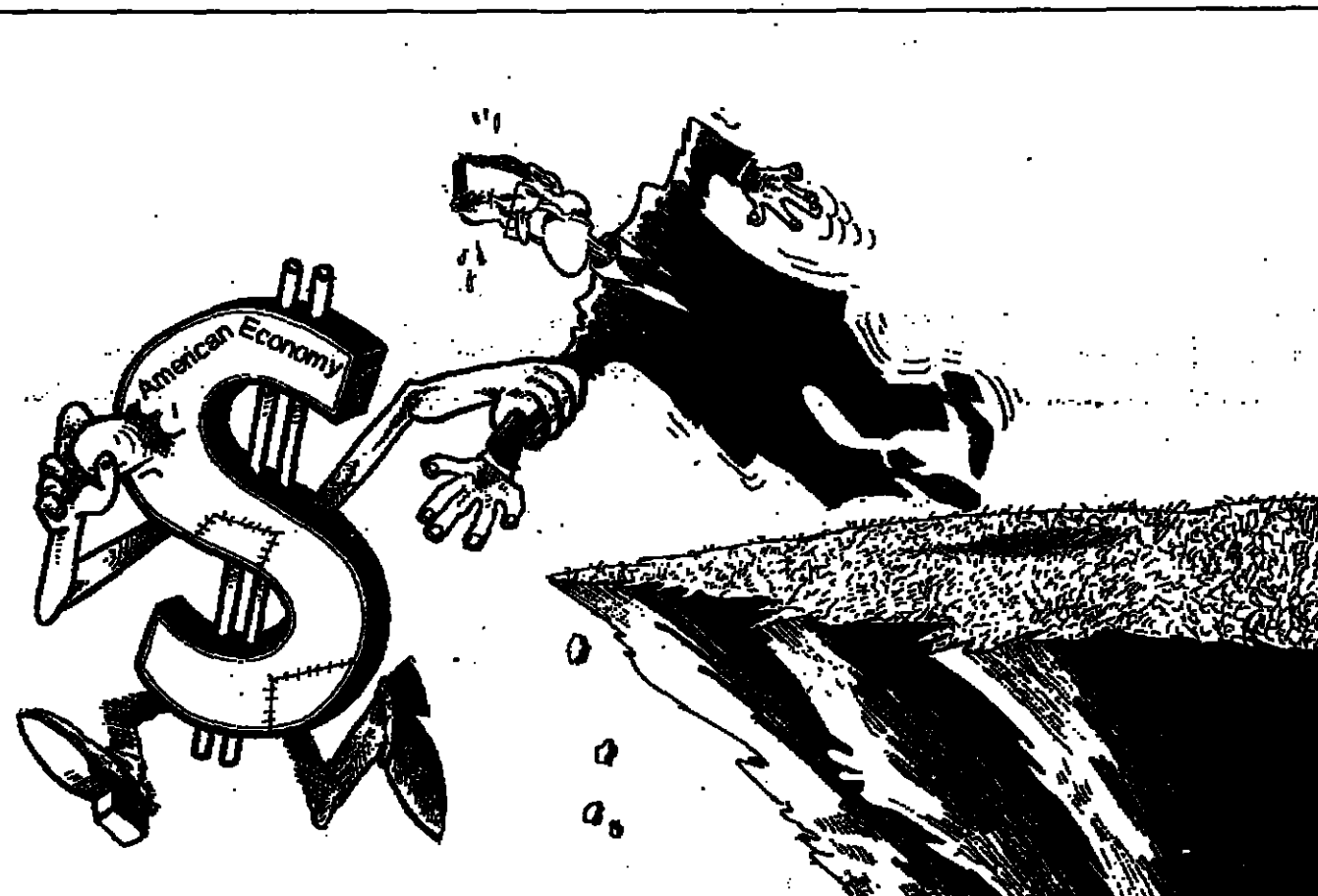
As it turned out, the Gulf war married an openly racist philosophy to the power of unbridled militarism; together they have become inseparable. They accommodate each other so well that few of us dare speak out in opposition. President Bush has become so confident that the power of these twin scourges will generate points for him in the polls that he threatens to unleash

them again on the world. Another "surgical strike" on Iraq by the coalition forces may bestow upon the U.S. the status of mercenary policeman of the world. But at price to the spirit of our nation? We now have a system that entices its young, its poor and its minorities to "be all you can be in the Army", as an easy way to earn enough money to pay for college or specialised training, once they are inducted and serve under a commander-in-chief who vetoed the Civil Rights Act of 1990 and opposes minority college scholarships.

Upon returning from World War II, although we have forgotten it, black servicemen often faced lynch mobs in the south, and black soldiers sent to the Korean war found Confederate flags, those symbols of slavery, flying from navy ships beside the Stars and Stripes. One third of black Americans still live in poverty. Almost half the American children under the age of 15 are trapped in that condition. What can the Gulf war, or Mr. Bush's newly threatened war there, with the sacrifices it would entail, contribute to the solving of these problems? Our president sees no connection between our general climate of dehumanisation and the organised violence of the state. To fail to connect the violence and chaos in daily life at home with the organised, heavily financed, systematic violence of our new career as warrior of the world is to remain blind as bats.

The arguments put forth by the president to assure the American people and the world of the "rightness" of the Gulf war and the possible need for another "surgical strike" - in order to defend Saudi Arabia, to restore a freedom that never existed in Kuwait and, most recently, to force Saddam Hussain to accede to Security Council resolutions - all sully the good name of the U.S.

The "new world order" of George Bush rests on the tired, brutal and old assumption of Western supremacy, and "white supremacy." It cannot possibly represent the "world". It is rather a plot between about 24 countries and their respective power brokers to control the world's natural and human resources. It is most clearly not "order" but both a formula for permanent chaos and instability overseas and a programme for moral and social ruin at home - Middle East International.



M. KAHIL

## Saddam's strategy shuns clash with allies

By Victoria Graham  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — One week after the allies imposed a no-fly zone over southern Iraq, Saddam Hussein's strategy is a pragmatic one of avoiding military confrontation while keeping up a heavy propaganda offensive.

Iraq's most potent weapons for now appear to be diplomacy, legal arguments and propaganda. Some analysts do not believe that Saddam Hussein can afford to passively stand by and do nothing while the Americans and their allies challenge his authority and credibility.

There's no doubt the Iraqis consider the imposition of the air exclusion zone — set up below the 32nd parallel to help protect Shiite Muslim rebels — an outrage and a violation of sovereignty that must be resisted.

But diplomats say Iraq doesn't want to provoke another potentially devastating conflict that would shatter its remarkable post-Gulf war reconstruction, especially in the all-important oil sector.

They said Saddam Hussein appears to have chosen the best — if not the only — possible strategy short of war.

On Tuesday, the governor of Zakhar Province in the southern marshes said Baghdad has issued

orders not to engage allied aircraft.

Western officials claim that before President Bush declared the no-fly zone last Thursday, the Iraqis had been flying an average of 30 sorties a day against the Shiites.

Since then, no flights have been reported over the zone by Saddam Hussein's estimated 150 operational combat aircraft, all he has left from a prewar fleet of some 700 jets.

Iraq's leaders apparently hope the limited and fragile support for U.S., British and French overflights will erode, in time, especially after the U.S. elections in November, if Baghdad acts responsibly.

Iraq is portraying itself as a beleaguered country bullied by the Western powers who want to steal its oil and partition it into a Kurdish zone in the north and a Shiite sector in the south, with Saddam's Sunni Muslim-dominated minority regime holding Baghdad and the landlocked central provinces.

The Kurds, under allied protection since last year, have established a de facto mini-state with its own elected legislature in the north.

But the Kurds, who have been fighting for autonomy for decades, are far better organised, militarily and politically, than the

Shiites, who dominate the oil-rich south.

The prospect of a Shiite-held zone emerging is considered distant unless the allies, or Iran, intervene on a large-scale on the ground — which seems unlikely for the present.

But that could happen if Iraq launched a major offensive on the ground, a move diplomats suggest would be counter-productive for Saddam right now.

The Iraqi opposition claims combat is already under way and likely to intensify. Baghdad denies it is fighting Iraqi Shiites, only Iranian infiltrators, army deserters and bandits.

On the diplomatic front, Iraq plans to raise the issue of crippling U.N. economic sanctions and the allies' military intervention at the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Indonesia.

Issues of violated sovereignty, de facto partition and neo-colonialism resonate powerfully in much of the developing world, which sees the United Nations as dominated by the Western powers.

Baghdad also has been hammering away at what it calls the illegality of the military intervention.

It claims allied action is not justified by Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which authorises the use of force.

Mr. Bush declared the no-fly zone under U.N. Resolution 688, which demands repression of Iraq's 17 million people must stop.

It is not clear whether Iraq will respond to the allied moves by becoming more intransigent in its disagreements with the United Nations over inspection teams charged with destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction or the issue of U.N. guards for relief operations.

A U.N. team now in Baghdad has reported that its work is going smoothly.

On Sunday night, Saddam Hussein, never one to acknowledge setbacks, urged his countrymen to be patient and prepare themselves for the right time to respond to the allies.

One Iraqi official said the government would not act recklessly and be provoked into firing on allied planes, thus providing grounds for a Western attack.

But if the allies did drop bombs and inflict civilian casualties, diplomats suggested, it would hand Baghdad a big propaganda bonus.

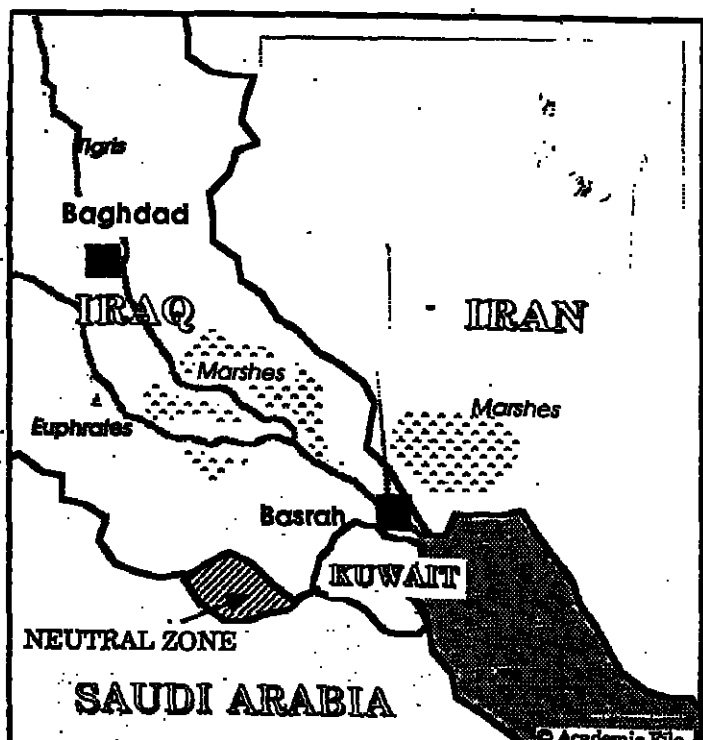
They say the big problem is that there's no way to ensure that any allied response would be limited.

For last years' war, it is still formidable.

Most of the bridges, key installations and oil facilities battered during the war have been repaired. More than 90 per cent of Iraq's refining capacity has

been restored.

To throw all that away to make a point of principle by inviting another aerial blitzkrieg would be irrational and would severely test Iraq's war-weary population, the diplomats argued.





## Regent hopes for momentum in talks

(Continued from page 1)  
Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the Regent said.

"We are very encouraged by the personal contact between His Majesty the King and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and members of the royal house in Saudi Arabia. We feel effectively that we have resumed contact."

"But what is important, of course, is that this happened after

a period of time in which such personal contact has not existed. The world has changed around us as we talk — and the scale of issues that is to be discussed is of greater sophistication, whether they are economic issues or security or human issues. I think that the region has to engage again and possibly the preparation for meetings at the highest level within the region is the only sure

guarantor on the success of such meetings in the future."

The Regent said that he was confident that the King, who underwent surgery last month, was not in need of further medical attention.

He said that he was assured also by the parliamentary delegation which visited the King in the hospital that the King was recovering well. He said that the King will return to Amman soon.

## Shbeilat formally charged in court

(Continued from page 1)  
Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Maftah Deputy Dughni said that the parliamentarians had asked the prosecutor-general of the State Security Court to "provide Parliament with the information that comes up as the cases proceed."

Mr. Dughni said that a special committee — consisting of members from all blocs and independents — is expected to be formed Sunday to follow up on the cases.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere at the parliament building was tense after news spread that one of the

senior administrative employees was also detained last Thursday for questioning on the Nafser organisation. The detention of the employee could not be confirmed.

The parliamentary statement also expressed the deputies' "regret over some of the press and writers' debate on this issue without having information, and their direct or indirect incrimination" of the detained deputies. The statement urged the press "to leave the issue to the judicial branch in order to protect public rights and freedoms."

Some of the local papers have

covered Mr. Shbeilat and Mr. Qarash's detention by quoting statements and allegations that could incriminate the two, according to critics of the media's coverage of the case.

"The press cannot and should not form a predetermined opinion and prejudice (the detained deputies) — whether it is incriminating or clearing them," Mr. Dughni stressed.

According to legal sources, Mr. Qarash has not yet been questioned by the State Security Court prosecution pending the appointment of an attorney to represent him.

## More arrests of groups reported

(Continued from page 1)  
ment's minimum opposition to its programmes.

"You can almost feel the Muslim Brotherhood movement slowly becoming part of the regime in the country," said one analyst.

This tacit agreement repeatedly shows itself beginning with the government's approval of the choice of Abdul Latif Arabiyat as House speaker last autumn up to and including the latest administrative appointments in which the movement's associates and members were given prominent positions, including an ambassadorship.

"I don't really see it as a crackdown on the Islamic movements as such," a seasoned analyst and former senior official said of the latest arrest of Islamists.

"The government is actually saying that now we have democracy and anyone can operate exactly as they want within that democracy," the former senior official added.

"However, even in a democracy, armed movements will not be tolerated, whether they are Islamist or not. The government of Sharif Zeid is obviously making it clear that it wants to protect the democratic experiment but

will not allow any tampering with state security."

In commenting on his movement's relations with the government, speaker Arabiyat described the role of the Islamic movements as a "source of strength and one of the leading forces behind the democratic process." At the same time he reasserted his party's rejection of any armed movement, "whether Islamic or non-Islamic."

In the case brought against Mr. Qarash and Mr. Shbeilat, "informed sources" were quoted as saying the problem was larger than the mere acquisition of arms and is more concerned with documents which were found at the joint office of the deputies which contain "highly classified information which can only be used to harm the Kingdom politically."

In details published by Al Hayat newspaper, the documents confiscated when the search was conducted at the time of Mr. Qarash's arrest contained information which would indicate that the group (Al Nafser) was collecting information on Jordan's security and Iraqi-Jordanian relations and are not relevant to parliamentary issues.

Although sources said that these documents could be traced to Mr. Qarash, "there was no concrete evidence which would incriminate Mr. Shbeilat in connection with these documents (See separate story)."

## Iraq fears Iranian action

(Continued from page 1)

"He (Mr. Qazal) is being part of the plot to divide Iraq into three parts as if he does not understand that such a plan will also lead to the partition of Turkey," Balent Ecevit, a former premier and the leader of the Democratic Left party, said in a statement.

Mr. Qazal organised the meeting with the Iraqi opposition leaders on Wednesday, reportedly without the knowledge of Premier Suleyman Demirel.

It came at a time when the Turkish government has expressed disappointment over the latest U.S.-led initiative to restrict Iraqi air traffic south of the 32nd Parallel.

Turkey fears that partition of Iraq into southern Shiite, central Sunni and northern Kurdish zones could strengthen Turkey's rebellious Kurds. It is also unhappy with Iraqi Kurdish attempts to forge a more independent region.

## U.N. team in Iraq

Three U.N. chemical experts arrived in Iraq Saturday to assess whether the country is ready to start the hazardous task of destroying its chemical weapons arsenal.

Briton Ron Manley, head of the three-member team, said they would inspect two plants built by Iraq to do the job and report back to the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

## NAM declaration

(Continued from page 1)

Muslim states want Yugoslavia — which now consists only of Serbia and Montenegro — kicked out. African countries fear such a move would set a precedent for their separatist groups.

Yugoslavia has strongly defended its record, saying it is not involved in attacks by Serbs on Bosnia Muslims.

The two issues are not mentioned in the "Jakarta Message" a statement to be separate from the final declaration. The official said members rejected calls for the inclusion of specific problems, except for Palestine and South Africa.

## Peres

(Continued from page 1)

He recalled that when Israel and Syria reached a disengagement agreement in 1974, Syria refused to sign the agreement directly with Israel. Syria signed, on to the agreement only via an Egyptian delegation, Mr. Rabinovich said.

Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger praised Syria Friday for the negotiating proposal it gave Israel. He called the document "a major step" in Middle East peace talks.

Not much is known publicly about the paper Syrian negotiators gave their Israeli counterparts earlier this week, except that it proposes a peace agreement if Israel gives back the Golan Heights.

Mr. Eagleburger said the document fell far short of answering many fundamental points — such as whether Syria would demand the return of all the Golan or just "some" of it.

Syria's chief negotiator, Muwaffak Al Allat, said Thursday his government wanted the return of all Arab territory occupied by Israel in 1967.

But Mr. Eagleburger's comment appeared to suggest Syria might be willing to settle for less. Mr. Eagleburger said the document also did not spell out what kind of peace agreement Syria envisaged with Israel.

The document "is a major step forward on the part of the Syrian government, and I think one to be applauded and embraced," Mr. Eagleburger said on Cable News Network (CNN).

It was the first time Syria has presented a written proposal since peace talks were launched under U.S. auspices last October.

Israel has promised to respond in writing, probably when its negotiators return to resume the talks on Sept. 14.

Mr. Eagleburger, who met with the negotiators before they recessed Thursday, said he hopes for further progress.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said both Israel and Syria still had to set out their full negotiating positions.

Mr. Rabin told Israel Television on Friday that there had not yet been a breakthrough in the talks with Syria, but he added: "I don't think the Syrians have yet shown all their cards just as we haven't shown all our cards."

"We have not revealed what price we are prepared to pay in exchange for full peace."

Asked by the television interviewer if he could accept Syria's demand for a complete withdrawal, Mr. Rabin said: "I won't say today what I'm prepared for and what not. But we've made it very clear there are different interpretations of U.N. Resolution 242."

## Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

Hezbollah fighters were engaging troops of the former communist militia moving south along the main Salang Highway from the

former Soviet border to reinforce the capital in violation of the peace accord, he said.

Mr. Qanuni said the Islamic government had begun the process of removing former communists from positions of power

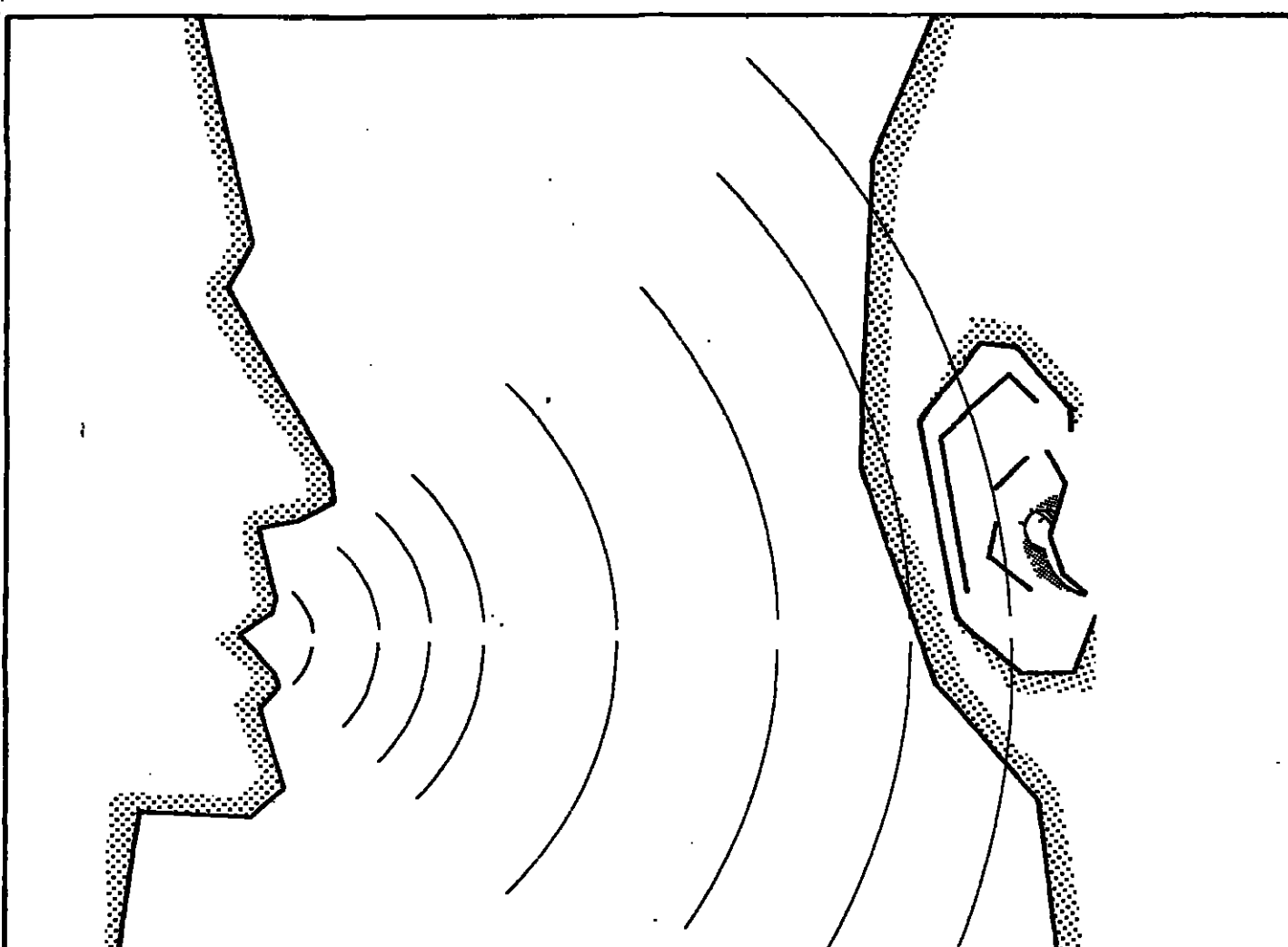
as required under the ceasefire. He gave no details.

He accused the Hezb of failing to mount a similar purge of its ranks.

The chief Hezb condition for the ceasefire was withdrawal

from Kabul of the former communist militia under General Rashid Dostum.

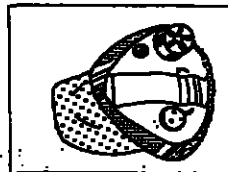
Mr. Qanuni said former communist forces had been incorporated into a security belt around the city.



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## U.S., Dutch agree world's first 'open skies' agreement

AMSTERDAM (R) — The United States and the Netherlands Friday sealed the world's first "open skies" accord allowing their national airlines unrestricted access to each other's home markets, the Dutch transport ministry said.

"The Netherlands is the first country with which the U.S. has signed an 'open skies' accord," the ministry said in a statement released after four days of talks in Washington, D.C.

Handling the deal as a "dream treaty," the ministry said it was an important breakthrough in efforts to open up the traditional system of two-way accord on landing rights between nations, dating back to 1944.

"The agreement can serve as an example to the world of a landing rights system adapted to modern times," the ministry said. "It is also important for the liberalisation of European aviation."

The agreement means Dutch and U.S. carriers will be free to fly wherever they like in each other's territory, though the

ministry could not specify when it will come into effect.

The ministry said the deal would reduce state intervention in aviation to a minimum and put the consumer's interests first.

Current two-way accords between U.S. and European states specify a limited number of destinations their airlines can fly to. Aviation analysts say this is an effort to protect the home territories of carriers.

They see the accord giving more immediate advantages to the Dutch flag carrier KLM Royal Dutch Airlines N.V. than to U.S. carriers, by allowing it free access to the massive U.S. market.

The Dutch carrier, which said it was "delighted" with the deal, will be the first European airline

## Arab League to reward reforms in Arab countries with investments

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab League is urging Arab states to undertake reforms to attract investment for development, saying their economies have been burdened by too much borrowing, a senior official said.

Yusuf Nimatallah, assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, said the Cairo-based Arab League was trying to repatriate more than \$370 billion in overseas Arab capital for investment in Arab economies.

This month the 21-member league is starting a policy of encouraging reforms by publicly endorsing as ripe for investment those countries which show positive results.

"We're tired of borrowing. (It) has proven itself more of a burden than a help," he said in an interview with Reuters Friday.

"If capital comes in as investment it's better than being borrowed and sometimes mismanaged."

The League's Council of Finance Ministers will consider their first endorsements of reform programmes in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia when they meet in Tunis next week, he said.

"It's the first time (the council) will do something like that to encourage reforms," he said. "Some of the countries that are putting together measures of economic reform will come in front of the council and explain those efforts."

"If they are on the right track... they are rewarded by a statement issued by the council asking the private sector, Arab and non-Arab, to have more confidence and trust in that country. Not unlike the International

Monetary Fund, they... can approve or disapprove," he said.

He said in the past two years, about \$18 billion in Arab private capital has been invested in mostly industrial projects in the League's 21 member countries. About one-third of that amount has been invested in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Nimatallah was to speak at a conference of Arab League central bank governors in Abu Dhabi Saturday to discuss steps they can take in response to the Basle ruling three years ago.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (RMF), one of the Arab League's five main joint institutions, is sponsoring Saturday's talks.

The Basle-based Bank of International Settlements classified all Arab countries except Saudi Arabia as high risks for obtaining loans because their capital adequacy levels were too low.

Capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders' equity and assets, is as low as four per cent in some Arab banks.

Arab countries have criticised the Basle decision, which goes into effect next year. They say the risk classification could harm development and that some Arab banks have adequacy above the Basle requirement of eight per cent.

Mr. Nimatallah said the League was urging members to reduce their budget deficits to strengthen currency, liberalise their economies, and enhance efficiency by privatisation or improving public sector administration.

### Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	New York Close 3/9/1992	New York Close 2/9/1992
Sterling Pound	1.9830	1.9960
Deutsche Mark	1.4155	1.4017
Swiss Franc	1.2680	1.2505
French Franc	4.8210	4.7685
Japanese Yen	123.99	123.13
European Currency Unit	1.4505	1.4445

USD Per 100  
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

**European Currency Unit**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.12	3.18	3.63
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.18	10.57	10.57
Deutsche Mark	9.56	9.62	9.68	9.56
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.93	7.96	9.88
French Franc	10.06	10.18	10.25	10.25
Japanese Yen	4.25	3.81	3.68	3.65
European Currency Unit	11.00	11.06	11.00	11.00

Interbank bid rates for currencies exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

**Practicals Markets**

Metal	USD/oz	JD/oz	USD/oz	JD/oz
Gold	341.95	6.45	341.73	6.40

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6660	0.6660
Sterling Pound	1.3843	1.3709
Deutsche Mark	1.4791	1.4795
Swiss Franc	0.5307	0.5334
French Franc	1.1391	0.1398
Japanese Yen	1.5390	0.5417
Dutch Guilder	0.4200	0.4221
Swedish Krona	0.1294	0.1300
Italian Lira	0.0619	0.0622
Belgian Franc	0.0292	0.0293

**Other Currencies**

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7360	1.7480
Lebanese Lira	0.232	0.0250
Saudi Riyal	0.1760	0.1781
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3300	2.3100
Qatari Riyal	0.1758	0.1812
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.6970	1.7120
UAE Dirham	0.1798	0.1812
Greek Drachma	0.3740	0.3835
Cypriot Pound	1.5850	1.6100

**CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market**

Index	25/8/1992 Close	2/9/1992 Close
All-Share	140.42	142.70
Banking Sector	104.54	105.00
Insurance Sector	147.46	149.22
Industry Sector	190.05	193.87
Services Sector	181.64	183.31

December 31, 1990 = 100

## Weak jobless figures spur U.S. central bank to trim interest rates

WASHINGTON (R) — A sharp one-month decline in the number of U.S. jobs jolted President George Bush's reelection hopes Friday and sent the Federal Reserve (Fed) into action to again trim interest rates.

The Labour Department reported that the number of jobs in the sprawling U.S. economy fell by 83,000 in August although the unemployment rate was actually slightly lower at 7.6 per cent versus 7.7 per cent in July.

Analysts said job losses would have been even worse were it not for an emergency programme that created 100,000 temporary summer jobs for youngsters.

The temporary programme expires this month and economists

said its closure, combined with the economic devastation caused by hurricane Andrew and layoffs at General Motors due to a strike, probably will force unemployment to 7.8 per cent or higher by election day on Nov. 3.

That would be a dangerous figure for a president seeking reelection with the economy as the key campaign issue.

"It's dismal. It's bleak. There was job destruction rather than job creation," said Allen Sinai, economist at Boston Co.

Despite a recently weaker dollar on world markets, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, quickly responded to the news by forcing down the federal funds interbank lending rate by a quarter-point to three per cent in a bid to spur the stalled economy.

The Fed, apparently worried by the drop of 83,000 non-farm jobs, signalled the move by injecting \$2.5 billion into the nation's banking system. With more money available, the floating rate at which banks lend money to each other overnight automatically eased.

The hope is that the banks will pass on their cost savings to consumers and businesses in the form of cheaper loans, spurring more borrowing, spending and growth.

The Fed has been cutting interest rates for three years in a bid to get the economy to grow again, but despite fits and starts, it was stagnated. The latest employment data drove home the view that the economic climate had taken a turn for the worse late in the summer.

Economists did not rule out the possibility that the Fed would try to deliver an even bigger jolt to the economy by cutting the discount rate to 2.5 per cent from three per cent.

Changing the discount rate, which is what the Fed would charge banks for direct, emergency loans, is the central bank's most powerful way of influencing monetary policy.

The August drop in jobs took economists by surprise. They had predicted an average that payrolls

## U.S. poverty soars

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of poor Americans Bush and Reagan than in the soared to 35.7 million in 1991, more than in any year since 1964, the Census Bureau has said.

the figures, sure to become potent political fodder in this election year, showed 2.1 million Americans were added to the poverty rolls in the second year of the current economic downturn.

Poor Americans accounted for 14.4 per cent of the population, up from 13.5 per cent the year before and topping 14 per cent for the first time since 1985.

The government defines a poor person as someone whose income is below the national poverty line. For a family of four in 1991, the poverty line was \$13,924. For someone living alone, the line was \$6,932.

The government also said median household income declined by 3.5 per cent to \$30,126, after adjusting for inflation.

In 1990, there were 33.6 million poor Americans, up about 50,000 from the previous year.

Before president Lyndon Johnson's "war on poverty" began in 1965, typically more than 20 per cent of the population was classified as poor. Johnson's much-criticized policy of helping the poor successfully lowered the poverty rate to below 15 per cent.

Since then, the poverty rate has ranged from a low of 11 per cent in 1974 to a high of 15.2 per cent in 1983, during the last recession.

Generally, poverty rates have been higher under the adminis-

## Russia loses over \$5b from capital flight

WASHINGTON (R) — Russia lost the equivalent of about half of the \$10 to \$12 billion in international aid it received in the first half of this year to illegal capital flight out of the country, monetary sources have said.

They said that over \$5 billion leaked overseas as Russian companies stashed export earnings in foreign bank accounts rather than bringing the money home and investing it there.

The size of the capital flight raises new questions about how much foreign help Russia actually needs in retooling its economy into the capitalist mould.

Russian officials are well aware of the problem and some privately admit that it could complicate the country's bid for debt relief from its foreign creditors.

Moscow is pleading poverty in its negotiations with its creditors, saying that it does not have the money to service the debt and asking for a formal rescheduling. But some bankers are sceptical.

"With appropriate policies in place... Russia should be able to service in 1992... the entire foreign debt of the former Soviet Union," Horst Schulmann, managing director of the Institute of International Finance, a bank lobbying group, said earlier this

summer.

Russian central bankers said Wednesday that they want to try to plug the illegal leaks of capital abroad by requiring that exporters sell all foreign currency earnings to the state unless they needed cash to buy goods abroad.

"Enterprises did everything they could to hide some of their foreign currency earnings from the state," Russian central bank official Vyacheslav Solovov said. "This did a lot of damage to our economy."

The International Monetary Fund is hoping that the tough economic policies it is prescribing for Russia will attract capital back into the country by increasing confidence in the nation's ability to pursue painful reforms.

Some monetary sources confessed that it is not entirely clear what all of the foreign assistance that Russia received in the first half of this year was used for.

The uncertainty has arisen partly because the Russian government's books have been so jumbled that even Moscow doesn't seem to know for sure where some of the money went.

"Ten to \$12 billion came in and we don't know where it is," said one source, who declined to be identified.

Much of the money was used to buy supplies of food, medicine and other essential imports, but a full accounting of where the assistance went does not seem to be available.

The bureaucratic snafus may be one reason why Russia still has not signed its \$600 million loan agreement with the World Bank, even though it has said it desperately needs the money to buy critical imports, including medicine.

The World Bank's board approved the loan on Aug. 6 but monetary sources said the organisation has been unable to release the money because the agreement has not been signed by the appropriate Russian authorities.

Perhaps because of such uncertainties, the World Bank seems to have adopted a cautious approach in its dealings with Russia.

It had originally expected to agree to two more loans for Russia totalling \$1 billion before the end of 1992, but bank officials in Moscow said recently that those deals are not likely to come off until next year.

The World Bank has also been cautious about agreeing to requests that it establish a "consultative group" of donor nations to coordinate aid and other assistance to Russia.

Monetary sources though said they expect the World Bank to agree later this year to set up such groups for some of the other former Soviet republics, including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

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## Sarajevo Airport shut to aid; U.N. probe of crash continues

SARAJEVO (R) — Sarajevo Airport remained shut to vital aid flights Saturday as U.N. investigators sought to establish if an Italian relief plane that crashed had been shot down by Bosnia's warring factions.

"It all depends on the results of the investigation report," a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official told reporters. U.N. officials said they could not yet confirm reports from Italian ministers and witnesses that the plane, a G-222 transport that crashed in mountains near the city, had been shot down by a missile.

General Satish Nambiar, chief of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia, has asked for a "very meticulous process of verification of the information." UNPROFOR spokeswoman Shannon Boyd said in Zagreb.

"The implications are very serious and much of the information so far is conflicting," she said. "There will be no shades of grey (in the report). No assumptions will be made on the basis of inadequate evidence."

Serb and Muslim militias exchanged gunfire in Sarajevo throughout the night into early Saturday, but the guns were drowned out by a violent storm that lashed the capital.

The sound of crashing glass and falling timber echoed across the city as buildings, already damaged by the five-month bombardment, collapsed under torrential rain.

Sixteen people were wounded in Sarajevo in overnight violence, eight of them children, local officials said.

Clashes between Serb and Muslim militias were reported at Nedzarici and Ilidza, suburbs of

Sarajevo which have seen fierce fighting.

In the absence of secure land corridors, suspension of the U.N. airlift is critical for Sarajevo, encircled by Serb forces for five months, and its 380,000 besieged inhabitants.

Italian ministers said in Rome Friday that the aircraft, wreckage from which was strewn across a wooded mountainside 50 kilometres west of the city, might have been hit by a missile. The plane's four-member Italian crew were killed.

Defence Minister Salvo Ando said Italy had "authoritative evidence," from U.N. officials that the aircraft was shot down, and a cabinet colleague said this was certain.

Blackened blankets, part of the relief cargo intended for the besieged residents of Sarajevo, hung from trees at the crash scene in the Bitovnja Mountains.

Eyewitnesses in the area, which is controlled by Muslim and Croat forces, said Friday the plane had been hit by one or two rockets.

Military sources in Zagreb said they were sure the plane was not hit by an air-to-air missile and, if it was shot down, the most likely weapon used was a surface-to-air missile.

Serb lines outside Sarajevo are about 30 kilometres from the crash site and the military sources suggested the distance might be too far for any attack from that area.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata called off the relief mission and all aid flights to Sarajevo were suspended until the cause of the crash had been established.

Meanwhile, Yugoslavia's moderate Prime Minister, Milan

Panic, won a major battle in his power struggle with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, beating off a no-confidence vote intended to remove him from power.

Serb nationalist deputies allied to Mr. Milosevic tabled the motion of no-confidence against Mr. Panic, accusing him of selling out Serbia at international peace talks in London last week.

After speaking twice in parliament and winning endorsement for his performance at the London conference, Mr. Panic won Friday's no-confidence vote by 66 to 30 votes.

The outcome gave Mr. Panic, a Yugoslav-born businessman who made a fortune in the United States, a huge boost in his struggle with Mr. Milosevic.

In Geneva, diplomats pressed ahead Saturday with international efforts to end the Yugoslav conflict and step up relief efforts stalled by the downing of the Italian aid plane.

Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the two men at the centre of the peace efforts, began a weekend of closed-door meetings at Geneva's Palais Des Nations, the United Nations' European Headquarters.

Lord Owen told British Radio Friday that the crash, after well over 1,000 successful flights in the last two months, could mark a turning point.

"There sometimes comes a moment when the world looks at a situation and says enough is enough. Maybe this might prove to be it," he said.

In Washington, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday he did not think American combat troops should be sent to try to end the conflict in the

former Yugoslavia.

"We're not eager to put U.S. military forces on the ground in Yugoslavia to try to end that conflict," Mr. Cheney said in a speech to the Economics Club of Indianapolis, Indiana.

"It doesn't strike me as the type of conflict in which I'm prepared to commit young Americans to combat," Mr. Cheney said, citing the complexity of the fighting between various ethnic groups and the rugged terrain in which U.S. troops would have to operate.

"Who do you want me to shoot? How many Yugoslavs do you want me to kill to stop them from killing each other? How long do you want me to stay?" Mr. Cheney asked in response to a question about why the United States was not doing more to end the ethnic fighting. He said he supported further international efforts to end the conflict.

In a separate appearance, acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said he believed an Italian relief plane that crashed in Bosnia Thursday was shot down.

Mr. Eagleburger told the Cable News Network the incident illustrated the dangers of involvement in the war.

"We have to provide humanitarian assistance and we will use force if necessary to provide that assistance," he said.

"We have to be very, very careful about how we provide the support necessary to get it in... there is a real distinction between trying to assist in getting humanitarian assistance into Sarajevo and getting engaged in trying to make peace amongst the contending factions," Mr. Eagleburger said.

## Tajikistan threatened with break-up, hundreds killed

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — Fighting between rival clans and factions in Tajikistan threatens to flare into a full-scale civil war that could tear the former Soviet republic apart, a top CIS military official said Saturday.

"If the situation doesn't stabilise, the republic could split into separate regions... it could split into three or four parts," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"You cannot speak of full civil war yet, but the tendency towards it is taking shape," he added in an interview.

Colonel Valery Kochinov, deputy commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told Reuters in a separate interview that several hundred people had been killed in the southern region of Kurgan-Tyube in the past 10 days.

About 100 had died in the last three to four days alone.

Tajikistan, a mainly Muslim republic of five million people on the southern edge of the former Soviet Union, has been racked by weeks of intense fighting between opposing factions in the southern region.

The remote area forms the border between the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Afghanistan.

The cabinet and parliamentary leadership this week declared no confidence in President Rahmon Nabiyev for his failure to address the crisis, but parliament failed for the second day Saturday to muster a quorum to decide his fate.

Mr. Nabiyev, a former Communist Party leader of Tajikistan, has made no public appearance since Monday, when demonstrators took control of his presidential palace. The crisis has left the country in political limbo with no effective leadership.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Saturday Mr. Nabiyev had signed a decree declaring a state of emergency in Kurgan-Tyube.

The four-line report from Dushanbe gave no indication of where Mr. Nabiyev was or how he planned to enforce the order.

Col. Kochinov said the gas and electricity supplies in Kurgan-Tyube had been cut off.

"There is no light or gas. Shops aren't working. There are corpses lying around with nobody to pick them up. There are very many victims," he said, citing reports from CIS military observers in the area.

Tajik Radio said at least 30 people were killed in Kurgan-Tyube Friday, but Col. Kochinov said this figure covered only victims who were formally identified and officially registered. The real death toll was much higher.

Armed groups from Kurgan-Tyube, a hotbed of opposition support, are fighting Mr. Nabiyev loyalists in the nearby Kulyab district in a conflict where both local clan rivalries and political allegiances are at stake.

## Armenians launch new assault in Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Armenian forces have launched a new assault in and around the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, winning control of several villages, news agencies and local radio stations said Saturday.

The fighting could threaten the latest in a series of ceasefires between Armenia and Azerbaijan — a truce brokered by neighbouring Kazakhstan due to come into effect on Sept. 15. Previous attempts at mediation have ended in failure.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said there had been heavy shelling in the Askeran region in the east of the enclave.

Radio Russia quoted the information centre of the Azeri Popular Front saying Armenian forces had occupied villages near Askeran and near Agdam, just inside Azerbaijan.

"There are dead and wounded. Violent fighting is continuing," the radio said.

Over 2,000 people have died in four years of bitter fighting for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is located within Azerbaijan but populated largely by Armenians.

The truce, which will apply to the border between the two states and not to Nagorno-Karabakh itself, was agreed on Thursday by representatives of the two sides meeting in the Armenian border town of Kayan-Avan.

TASS Saturday quoted reports from the Armenian capital Yerevan saying that Armenian forces had shot down an Azeri MiG 21 heading for the regional capital Stepanakert. No independent confirmation was available.

The agency said sources in the

Azeri capital Baku believed Armenian forces were trying to encircle the Agdam district.

The Armenian forces subjected to rocket and artillery fire all regional settlements bordering on Nagorno-Karabakh, and the regional centre itself, resulting in loss of life and devastation," TASS said.

Azerbaijan's ASSA-IRADA Agency said civilians were among the casualties.

Military experts from six European nations and Canada are to take part in talks in Rome next week on sending observers to supervise a ceasefire Italian mediators are trying to negotiate in Nagorno-Karabakh.

A delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh will also participate in the talks, Armenia's news agency said. The delegation of Nagorno-Karabakh still hopes the forthcoming meeting in Rome could have a positive influence on the situation, it said.

Also taking part are military delegates from the 11-nation group that has been trying to convene a full peace conference in the Baku-based capital Minsk to settle the Transcaucasian dispute. The group includes Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia, another trouble spot of the former Soviet Union, Georgian forces had been ordered to stop firing in line with a ceasefire deal, TASS said, quoting a duty officer with Georgian forces in Sukhumi.

Georgian troops marched into Sukhumi last month, forcing Abkhazian separatists to set up a new base to the north of the coastal town.

## COLUMN

### Eurodisney greets six millionth visitor

PARIS (R) — Eurodisney SCA said that six million people had visited its new theme park since it opened in April, giving its European Disneyland the most successful start of any of Walt Disney Co.'s fantasylands. The attendance figures were higher than experts had expected and reflected a recent surge in admissions, which had been slack since the April 12 opening. "Never before has a Disney park welcomed so many guests so soon after opening," the theme park said. Eurodisney's share price jumped on the news. But the Paris Bourse later knocked it down as profit-taking and a new bout of scepticism towards the stock set in.

### Bridegroom sterilised by mistake

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Dutchman who went into hospital to be circumcised awoke to be told by doctors he had been given a vasectomy because of a mix-up in patient cards. "He was getting married and went to the hospital to get his circumcision done by professionals," a spokeswoman for the Dutch patients' rights group said. The man's name was not revealed by the rights group and his reaction to the mistake is not known.

### Superman is scheduled to die

NEW YORK (R) — There is a plot afoot to kill Superman, the 54-year-old man of steel who is faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Despite the superhero's superhuman strength, clean work habits, X-ray vision and noble nature, he has a fatal flaw (aside from kryptonite): his life is controlled by corporate executives, writers and artists at DC Comics. The bosses at DC have decreed that the original comic-book super hero — who spawned an empire of imitators — will die in November in hand-to-hand combat with an alien nutcase named Doomsday, who has bones sticking out of his fists.

### Japanese women yen for their men to be rich

TOKYO (R) — The first thing a Japanese woman expects from her lover or spouse is that he be well off, rather than merely good-natured, according to a survey published by a women's underwear company. The survey showed that women who have led comfortable lives do not want marriage to mean a step down in lifestyle. Wacoal Corporation said. Similar surveys conducted by the company in 1974 and 1989 showed that women then considered "good character" rather than "economic power" the most important characteristic in their men.

### British beer drinkers tighten their belts

LONDON (R) — The old adage that the unfortunate drown their sorrows in drink has failed to hold good in Britain's recession. Even beer drinkers are feeling the pinch. A brewer's society report said consumption of Britain's most popular alcoholic beverage fell 1.5 per cent in the year to the end of June from the previous 12-month period. Britons sank more than 10.7 billion pints (six billion litres) of beer in the last year, a fall of around 440,000 pints (250,000 litres) a day.

### Strip show success for Chinese troupe

PEKING (R) — China's drive for greater "reform and openness" is opening some eyes very wide in the southern province of Guangdong, where raunchy strip shows are touring peasant villages, an official newspaper said. Farmers in Chaoyang county were recently treated to naked women performing "the dance of youthful beauty" and "the dance of taking a shower." The Yangcheng Evening News said. "Everyone is talking about openness now, so why don't we all enjoy the dance of openness?" the compere of the Wuhan City Dance Ensemble was quoted as saying.

### Packer pulls plug on parrot and plucky puss

SYDNEY (R) — Channel Nine decided to show viewers "a bit of bum, a bit of boob" but the network's owner thought otherwise and pulled the plug on "Australia's naughtiest home videos," newspapers said. Media Tycoon Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man, ordered the hour-long show which featured, among other delights, a video of a cat trying to mate with an unimpressed parrot, off the air after only 30 minutes, the reports said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### N. Koreans 'rioted' over currency decree

TOKYO (R) — Rioting broke out in several North Korean cities after the government ordered citizens in July to exchange old banknotes for new ones but imposed a limit on how much could be exchanged. Kyodo News Agency said Friday. Kyodo quoted Western diplomatic sources who recently returned to Peking after visiting North Korea as saying the riots erupted after the decree was announced on July 15. The decree said existing 100-won, 50-won, 10-won, five-won and one-won notes would cease to be currency on July 15 and new notes of the same denominations would take their place. The sources said exchanges of old notes for new ones were carried out until July 20, but the North Korean government then set a limit of 500 won per household for the conversions. They said North Koreans angered at the limit then staged violent protests. The sources did not elaborate on the magnitude and casualties in the riots.

### Thatcher predicts change in China

SEOUL (AP) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Friday the United States and its allies should encourage Chinese leaders to accelerate economic reform. Mrs. Thatcher said that China's economy is steadily being opened up to outside investment. "The best help which the rest of us can give is to encourage the economic reform associated with Deng Xiaoping and speed the great industrial revolution which is about to happen in China," she said in a speech sponsored by Korea University. Mrs. Thatcher predicted China's quickening free-market dynamism would eventually lead to a political transformation. "No doubt those who rule China hope that economic reform will stave off the need for political change. That view will turn out to be utterly mistaken," she said. Chinese workers will demand more freedom with the improvement of their living standards, she said. "Prosperity produces a middle class who will not be content to be deprived of political rights."

### Appeal raises \$1.35m for Africa

LONDON (AP) — A television appeal which warned four million people face starvation in Africa unless food is provided immediately raised at least £709,000 (\$1.35 million), organisers said Friday. Seven aid agencies launched the three-month Africa In Crisis appeal in London to help bring relief to an estimated 40 million people they say are at risk in famine-stricken eastern and southern Africa. "The telephone lines were very, very busy," said Dee O'Connell, who is coordinating the fund-raiser under the umbrella of the disasters emergency committee. O'Connell estimated the effort raised at least £709,000 (\$1.35 million), including credit card donations and promises of checks.

### Chamorro plans purge of police

MANAGUA (R) — President Violeta Chamorro, reeling from a U.S. aid freeze and a tidal wave disaster that killed 116 people, will likely purge leftist Sandinista police chiefs, officials said Friday. The purge to be announced Saturday was expected for weeks in response to U.S. charges that she rules only with the approval of the leftist Sandinistas who formerly governed Nicaragua. The purge may free up part of a sorely-needed, \$116 million aid package blocked by U.S. Senate conservatives, who charge that Mrs. Chamorro is too beholden to the Sandinistas.

### 10 die in renewed S. African violence

CAPE TOWN (R) — Ten people died late Friday in attacks on people gathering for a meeting of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party's Youth Brigade, police said Saturday. A police spokesman said six people were shot and killed in an attack at Bonela, a black township near the east coast resort of Port Shepstone, shortly midnight. Two more died later of their wounds. Police found spent cartridges from an AK-47 assault rifle on the scene. Two people were found hacked and bludgeoned to death in a street in the same area, the spokesman said, and 16 people were wounded. "Our initial information is that they were gathering for today's Inkatha Youth Brigade meeting," he said. Conservative Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi addressed the Youth Brigade rally Saturday at Umtali, capital of his self-government KwaZulu homeland. Mr. Buthelezi and his Inkatha Party are African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela's main black rivals for political power.

### Tropical storm kills 150 in China

PEKING (AP) — The death toll from a tropical storm that battered China's east coast climbed to 150 with the deaths of 24 people in northern Shandong province, an official newspaper reported. Peking's Economic Daily (Jingji Ribao) said torrential rains and fierce winds from tropical storm Polly also killed 3,490 domestic animals, destroyed 1,419 fishing boats, flattened 10,894 houses and triggered five-metre (16.5 feet) waves along the coast.



## Battle erupts in Quebec over unity accord

MONTREAL (R) — A bitter battle has erupted over Canadian unity in the French-speaking province of Quebec, where the outcome of next month's national referendum on the country's future may be decided.

Insults were hurled by both sides in Quebec's National Assembly as the provincial legislature met to debate a law requiring Quebec to hold a referendum on its sovereignty, also scheduled for next month.

Jacques Parizeau, the outspoken leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois, accused the premier of Quebec, Robert Bourassa, of reneging on promises to defend the interests of the province.

"Why did the premier cave in... and accept what he said he would never accept?" Mr. Parizeau said.

The normally subdued Bourassa lashed back, calling the separatists a "gang of hypocrites."

Mr. Bourassa is trying to convince Quebecers that they should vote for a deal worked out on Aug. 28 with Canada's nine English-speaking provinces giving Quebec more autonomy.

Separatists accuse Mr. Bourassa of selling out Quebec by sitting down with the rest of Canada to hammer out the deal. They have called Mr. Bourassa a traitor and weakening for compromising.

Members of the Parti Quebecois carried into the Assembly stacks of petitions with hundreds of thousands of signatures of Quebecers supporting the province's referendum on sovereignty, set for Oct. 26.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney Thursday announced there would be a national referendum on the proposed unity pact the same date. Mr. Mulroney said he expects most of the energy and emotion of the campaign to focus on Quebec.

## Eagleberger: U.S.-China ties in for 'rough patch'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger has predicted that relations with China were in for a "rough patch" as a result of President George Bush's decision to sell F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan.

But Mr. Eagleburger also said the decision was unlikely to lead to a breakdown in relations between Peking and Washington, already frayed by China's alleged human rights abuses and its growing trade surplus with the United States.

"They have too much riding on the relationship with us in economic and political terms" to risk a rupture, Mr. Eagleburger said on the Cable News Network.

Congress is scheduled to debate within the next few weeks a proposed bill linking trade benefits for China with its human rights performance and arm sales to Third World countries.

The United States is China's biggest export market.

ROLAND, Arkansas (R) — Democratic vice presidential candidate Al Gore has said that President George Bush was afraid to defend his economic record against the Democratic presidential candidate.

That was why Mr. Bush had rejected a series of proposed debates with nominee Bill Clinton, Sen. Gore said.

"It's no mystery," he said. "If you were George Bush would you want to try to defend the worst economic performance since the great depression in a debate with Bill Clinton?"

"He doesn't want to do it and they're trying to figure some way to get out of it," said Sen. Gore, a senator from Tennessee.

The Bush campaign Thursday rejected proposals for a bipartisan commission for presidential and vice-presidential debates without spilling out its objections.

The commission, which has no binding authority, tentatively scheduled its first debate for Sept. 22 at a University in Michigan. It set two other debates for next month and a single vice-presidential debate in late September.

Mr. Clinton said he was "sorry, but not surprised" by the Bush campaign's rejection and accused the Republicans of seeking to manipulate the format.

"I'm sorry but not surprised. Mr. Clinton said. "They have a history of doing this — of trying to manipulate the procedures in ways that they think are most favourable to them."

"I just accepted the commission's proposals and I don't know where we are now," he said. "I've said I'm willing to debate...

## Gore says Bush is afraid to debate Clinton

and they said they want to haggle behind closed doors."

Aside from proposing the number of debates, the commission recommended they use a single moderator responsible for "facilitating exchanges among the candidates."

Mr. Bush campaign Chairman Robert Teeter Thursday played down the importance of debates and rejected the notion that Mr. Bush, the current underdog, needed them more than Mr. Clinton.

"My own position is they don't have much effect," Mr. Teeter said.

A poll by Cable News Network and USA Today released Thursday showed the Arkansas governor with a 15-point lead over Mr. Bush, a margin five points wider than a survey taken immediately after the Republican convention last month.

Mr. Clinton and Sen. Gore were in Roland, not far from Little Rock, to accept the endorsement of the Sierra Club, the environmental group that only once before has endorsed a presidential candidate.

Mr. Clinton has few disagreements with President Bush's decisions on selling jets to Taiwan, increasing farm subsidies or handing out hundreds of millions of dollars to hurricane victims.

But the Democratic presidential candidate questions the timing of some of Mr. Bush's recent actions, which Democrats are criticising as political ploys to boost a faltering reelection campaign.

Mr. Clinton, in fact, wants credit for pushing Mr. Bush into positions he previously avoided.

"Now, I'm a Baptist, so I be-

lieve in deathbed conversions, but this is amazing," Mr. Clinton told a labour audience Thursday.

"I'll tell you one thing — no matter what happens, our campaign has done some good for some people in this country."

Mr. Clinton accused Mr. Bush of "flip-flops" on several issues. After opposing the innovative V-22 Osprey aircraft for years, Mr. Bush is supporting the combination fixed-wing plane and helicopter as a boon to jobs in Texas and Pennsylvania where it would be built.

Mr. Clinton has backed development of the Osprey for military and possible civilian use despite two recent accidents involving prototype versions.

The Democratic nominee also has supported sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan, despite objections from the Chinese mainland government in Peking.

Mr. Bush, until he announced support for such a sale this week in Texas where they are built, had opposed it and generally kept smooth relations with Peking.

Mr. Clinton also steered clear of criticising the substance of the \$1 billion in farm subsidies for grain exports Mr. Bush announced Thursday, saying only: "I think the American people are smart enough to see politics as usual."

And when the Democratic candidate followed Mr. Bush into hurricane-damaged areas of Florida Thursday, he could say nothing critical of the president's release of \$755 million for hurricane relief.

Mr. Clinton's central message was, in effect, that he would have done the same thing.

"I do not come here for any political purpose," he said.

"What I want to do is just make it clear to the people of Florida that if I am elected, I will be there."

Mr. Bush had been criticised by some for federal sloppiness in responding to the hurricane, in which did an estimated \$30 billion damage in Florida and Louisiana.

But Mr. Clinton did not make up that argument, either.

"I don't want to criticise what he did because I don't know what his options were, because I'm not there," he said.

Even Mr. Bush's pledge to repair Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, which the Pentagon lists as them with had on a shut-down list to cut defence costs, brought only assurances from Mr. Clinton that he believed the base still had an important mission.

He noted that it is the closest air base to Cuba and a convenient launching area for anti-drug flights.

Mr. Bush appealed for the votes of small business owners Friday as he signed a new law to provide them with more federal loans.

In a speech in Fredericksburg, Virginia, about 50 miles west of Washington, Mr. Bush also stressed his own experience and said small business would be hurt by the health-care proposals Democratic opponents at Bill Clinton.

This bill will loosen up credit even more for deserving small business," Mr. Bush said. "I hold the crowd as he signed the Business Credit and Opportunity Enhancement Act of 1992."